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TRAINING TO TAKE ON TANKS

Ukrainians will learn how to use US-provided Javelin missiles for fight against separatists

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An American soldier demonstrates how to use the Javelin anti-tank missile system as a delegation of Ukrainian military officials observes at Hohenfels Training Area, Germany, in May 2017. The U.S. has delivered anti-tank missiles to Ukraine, the first shipment of lethal aid to the country.

Kayla Christopher/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Report: Afghan force levels shrinking despite billions spent by US



AUSTIN T. BOUCHER/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Special operators of the Afghan National Mission Brigade conduct an exercise at the Kabul Military Training Complex in February.

By PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — The number of U.S.-funded Afghan security force personnel has sharply declined over the past year, even as fighting and terrorist attacks escalated in many parts of the country, a U.S. government watchdog said Monday.

The Afghan National Defense and Security Forces as of Jan. 31 numbered 296,409 people, with the Afghan National Army at 85.4 percent of its authorized strength and the Afghan National Police at 93.4 percent of its authorized strength.

The figures, compiled by U.S. Forces-Afghanistan from the Afghan military, were in a report issued by the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, or SIGAR.

The information had been classified or restricted from the public for the past six months, SIGAR said.

The shortfall in forces came even though the authorized strength is 5 percent lower than last year, mainly because of large cuts to the Afghan National Police.

SEE REPORT ON PAGE 7

MILITARY

Former Fitzgerald skipper's hearing slated for late May

By TYLER HLAIVAC
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA, JAPAN — An Article 32 hearing for the former commander of a guided-missile destroyer involved in a deadly collision last year has been scheduled for May 21, the Navy said Wednesday.

Cmdr. Bryce Benson — who helmed the USS Fitzgerald on June 17 when it ran into a container ship off the coast of Japan, killing seven sailors — faces charges that include negligent homicide, hazarding a ship and dereliction of duty. His hearing, which was originally slated for early March, was postponed after defense attorneys asked for more time.

On May 8, an unidentified Fitzgerald officer is scheduled for arraignment and to enter a plea on

a charge of negligent dereliction of duty resulting in death. The following day, a joint Article 32 hearing will take place for two junior Fitzgerald officers.

All hearings will be held at the Navy Yard in Washington.

An update on proceedings for the USS John S. McCain, which on Aug. 21 collided with an oil tanker near Singapore and killed 10 sailors, will be "forthcoming," the statement said. Cmdr. Alfredo Sanchez, the guided-missile destroyer's former skipper, faces charges similar to Benson's.

Navy investigations said both "avoidable" collisions were caused by failures in planning, training, procedures and operations. Part of that, the service found, was because of the intense operational pace the fleet has been maintaining in recent years.

The accidents left the Pacific Fleet reeling and led to firings, forced retirements and nonjudicial punishments conducted by Adm. Frank Caldwell, who was tapped in October to oversee disciplinary actions for the accidents.

The Navy relieved the commanders of both ships, along with the head of the 7th Fleet and the leaders of Task Force 70 and Destroyer Squadron 15, which oversee the fleet's destroyers and cruisers.

Pacific Fleet Commander Adm. Scott Swift announced his retirement in September, and Vice Adm. Thomas Rowden, the former Naval Surface Force Pacific head, retired in January ahead of scheduled after the recommendation of disciplinary actions against him.

During proceedings in late January, Caldwell found the Fitzger-



ERIC COFFER/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Cmdr. Bryce Benson, left, brings down the ensign while serving as executive officer aboard the destroyer USS Fitzgerald in the Pacific Ocean in February 2016.

ald's executive officer, command master chief and another officer guilty of dereliction in the performance of duties and issued letters of punitive reprimand.

An enlisted sailor from the McCain was also found guilty of dereliction of duties. He received a punitive letter of reprimand and forfeiture of half-pay for two months and a reduction in rate to the next pay grade — both delayed for six months.

In mid-February, Cmdr. Jessie Sanchez, executive officer on the McCain, was found guilty of dereliction of duty and received a punitive letter of reprimand.

Caldwell later dismissed charges against an officer and an enlisted crewmember from the Fitzgerald in what the Navy said would be the last planned nonjudicial punishment proceedings for the collisions.

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Marines, sailors on Okinawa rename headquarters to honor MOH recipient

By LEON COOK
Stars and Stripes

Marines and sailors on Okinawa, Japan, renamed a building to honor a Medal of Honor recipient who fought and died on the island during one of the bloodiest battles of World War II.

Troops from Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, officially changed the name of their regimental headquarters at Camp Kinser to Hauge Hall on Monday in recognition of

Cpl. Louis Hauge, who was killed in the Battle of Okinawa on May 14, 1945.

"We are very honored, and that he is not forgotten, and that the Marines remember him," Hauge's nephew, Joe Braunschweig, said in a Marine Corps statement.

Hauge displayed uncommon valor when a squad from the 1st Marine Division got pinned down by enemy mortar and machine-gun fire, according to his award citation. He sprinted toward two machine-gun emplacements, toss-

"We dedicated this building to Cpl. Hauge because we found out that his unit was dug in at this very camp."

Col. Forrest Poole

commander, Combat Logistics Regiment 35

ing hand grenades as he ran. He was wounded but destroyed both machine-gun nests before a Japanese sniper shot and killed him.

"We dedicated this building to Cpl. Hauge because ... we found out that his unit was dug in at this very camp," Col. Forrest Poole,

commander of the logistics regiment, said in the statement. "He and his unit defended this position while Marines traveled here to assist the southern assault."

A native of Ada, Minn., Hauge joined the Marine Corps Reserve in 1943 as a light machine-gunner. He saw combat on Peleliu, Palau, and was awarded a meritorious promotion to corporal. He was a squad leader by the time the Marines stormed Okinawa.

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MILITARY



PHOTOS BY MARCUS FICHT/Stars and Stripes

A soldier plays a victim during a mass-casualty scenario at the 121st Combat Support Hospital at Camp Humphreys, South Korea, last month.

Like 'M.A.S.H.' Medical personnel take part in drill at Combat Support Hospital in S. Korea

By MARCUS FICHT
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS,
South Korea

Medical personnel at the home of the Eighth Army went back to their Korean War roots by setting up and running a field hospital during a recent exercise.

The 121st Combat Support Hospital, or CSH, is a collection of tents only a stone's throw from where the massive new Brian Allgood Community Hospital is under construction at Camp Humphreys. The tent hospital, which stands year-round but comes to life twice a year, is the larger fa-

cility's just-as-functional wartime brother.

"It's not designed for training; it's designed for real life," Capt. Trevor Fitzgerald said of the field hospital. Fitzgerald, 27, from Guthrie, Okla., leads the 163 soldiers working there, including doctors from Hawaii and Washington state.

The 44-bed field CSH — pronounced "cash" — is a modern, well-equipped version of the old Mobile Army Surgical Hospital seen on the hit TV show "M.A.S.H." It has two operating rooms, an emergency room, an MRI machine, a pharmacy and laboratories. Troops can set it up in 72 hours.

"If we were to transition to

hostilities ... the design is for the Eighth Army commander to be able to tell us to go and set up anywhere he likes us to," Fitzgerald said.

The field hospital has a modular design that allows it to grow "like Lego" into a 240-bed facility with additional services such as laundry, food and chaplain support. The goal is to get wounded troops back into the fight or evacuate them from the peninsula, Fitzgerald said.

Last month, medical personnel tested the hospital's ability to cope with a mass-casualty event that emergency room doctor Capt. Stephanie Couch, 31, of Nashville, Tenn., called "controlled chaos."

A dozen soldiers playing ca-

sualties with blown-out innards and burned faces arrived in ambulances and were immediately sent to a triage site where staff assessed the urgency and severity of their mock injuries.

In the emergency room, about 40 doctors and medics performed carefully choreographed routines as they attended to patients.

"There's a bit of chaos going on at all times, but the primary focus for most people is, as long as they know their assigned role to their assigned bed then they can ignore most of the chaos and they're focusing on their personally assigned tasks," Couch said.

Maj. Alicia Williams, 36, of Woodbridge, Va., performed an actual lipoma removal on a volun-

teer during the exercise. She said she tried to block out all distractions while working.

"Your focus is to make sure that person in front of you is OK and makes it," she said. "Once you get them to their next destination, you just focus on the next patient and the next patient."

There was some real stress during the two-hour drill, just as there is with every exercise in Korea, said Williams, who has performed surgery on troops in Afghanistan.

"Even though it's practice ... when you're closer to potential tension it feels a little bit more serious," she said.

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Left: Emergency room doctors and medics work on a patient during the drill. Right: Medics rush a patient through the field hospital.

MILITARY



SLOBODAN LEKIC/Stars and Stripes

A new statue of Russian Czar Nicholas II in downtown Belgrade is one of the many outward signs of Russia's growing influence in Serbia.

Russian influence in Balkans has US military leaders on edge

BY SLOBODAN LEKIC
Stars and Stripes

BELGRADE, Serbia — When Serbia's leader was recently confronted with an unexpected political flare-up in the breakaway province of Kosovo, he immediately rang Russian President Vladimir Putin to ask for support.

Putin stressed that Serbia is the key partner of Russia in the Balkans (and in Europe, and that the Russian Federation will support the Republic of Serbia," President Aleksandar Vucic said.

The move was the latest example of the increasingly close ties between the two nations. These have raised concerns in Western capitals that Moscow is trying to turn Serbia — which borders five NATO nations — into its bridgehead in the Balkans, a region that has been relatively tranquil since the wars that marked the collapse of the former Yugoslav federation in the 1990s.

In March, U.S. European Command chief Gen. Curtis M. Scaparrotti identified Russia's overt and covert "malign influence" in the region as one of his key concerns. "Russia is at work in the Balkans, and we have kind of taken our eye off the area," he said during Senate testimony.

"Russia is carrying out a campaign of destabilization to change the international order, fracture NATO and undermine U.S. leadership around the world," Scaparrotti added.

Many Serbian analysts who support the country's stated policy of joining the European Union have also voiced concern that the country risks becoming a battleground between East and West.

"Serbia is not just a 'key partner' of Russia; it's Russia's only ally in Europe right now," said Milan Culibrk, editor-in-chief of Belgrade's independent NIN news magazine. Signs of Russia's popularity are

everywhere in downtown Belgrade. Dozens of vendors in the main pedestrian street peddle T-shirts emblazoned with Putin's picture and Russian flags. Russian banks are ubiquitous, and Russian-owned gas stations line the highways — although the European Union is by far Serbia's largest trading partner.

Russia has established a "humanitarian" center in the southern city of Nis, which some foreign diplomats believe could easily morph into an intelligence-gathering facility.

A massive new statue of Russia's last czar, Nicholas II, has been erected on a square facing the presidential office.

The history

After the ouster of former strongman President Slobodan Milosevic in 2000, Serbia sought to mend ties with the West. The U.S. and the West have conducted military training with Serbia and offered diplomatic and trade overtures.

While those olive branches have been accepted, they haven't gained the West much influence.

Much of the pro-Russia sentiment and bitterness toward the West stems from the U.S.-led NATO aerial onslaughts on Serbia and Serbs in Bosnia in the 1990s. In 1995, NATO bombed Bosnian Serb forces, and in 1999 the alliance bombed Serbia for 78 days. It forced Serbia out of Kosovo, which declared independence in 2008 in a move Serbia refuses to recognize.

"It's very simple why Serbs like Russia so much," said Miroslav Lazanski, a military analyst who hosts a weekly program on the Kremlin-owned Sputnik radio network. "The United States and NATO bombed us, tore Kosovo away from Serbia and now demand that we love them."

"In contrast, Russia has sup-

ported Serbia and has stood by us over the Kosovo issue.

"This is why the Russian and pro-Russian media is trusted by so many people here," Lazanski said.

Tabloids laud Putin

Serbian tabloids, by far the biggest source of print information in the country, run daily stories extolling Russian scientific and other achievements, the strength of the Russian military and Putin's political prowess. Those are then contrasted negatively to NATO's "aggressiveness" and the EU's internal problems.

The content is often supplied by Russian outlets such as the Kremlin-owned Sputnik agency and republished for free by the Serbian media.

Among broadcast outlets, Pink TV and Happy TV — the country's most popular television networks — offer a steady diet of talk shows featuring pro-Russia commentators and Serbian ultranationalists lauding Russia and disparaging the West.

One of the regulars on such shows is Vojislav Seselj, a member of parliament and a convicted war criminal, who advocates setting up Russian military bases in Serbia.

SEE INFLUENCE ON PAGE 5

Anti-tank weapons arrive in Ukraine

Troops to begin training on FGM-148 Javelins sent from US to 'deflect Russian aggression'

BY JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

Ukrainian troops will begin training this week on advanced U.S. anti-tank weaponry aimed at boosting Kiev's long-running fight against Russia-backed separatists, officials said Tuesday.

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko on Monday confirmed that the delivery of the FGM-148 Javelin weapons systems had been completed and that the weapons would help "the powerful deterrent effect of our combat capability."

"We continue to work on strengthening our defense capability in order to deflect Russian aggression," Poroshenko said on Facebook.

Ukrainian Defense Minister Stepan Poltorak, in a Facebook post, said training on the weapons would begin Friday.

President Donald Trump's decision to authorize the delivery of lethal weapons to Ukraine is a reversal of the position of the Obama administration, which argued that such shipments would escalate tensions. The Obama administration argued that Moscow was more deeply invested in the outcome in eastern Ukraine and would always be able to outdo Washington on the ground.

U.S. military leaders, however, have long favored providing more military support to Ukraine in the hope of increasing the costs for separatists and the Russian forces who support them.

It is unclear how much the new weapons will change the battlefield dynamics in the 4-year-old war, which has killed 10,000 people and at least 2,500 civilians, according to the United Nations. Some analysts believe the delivery of weapons is too little, too late.

Michael Carpenter, a former U.S. deputy assistant secretary of defense, said in an Atlantic Council forum Monday that the decision to supply arms was the right move but that it does little to alter the balance of power.

"No one should fool themselves into thinking that Javelin missiles are a game-changer," Carpenter said. "Javelins are useful weapons that will have a limited deterrent

effect, but they won't change the fighting capabilities of the Ukrainian military all that much."

Ukrainian casualties have increased in recent months even as fighting has decreased, according to the top U.S. military officer in Europe.

"We have seen the violence level go down of late," U.S. European Command Gen. Curtis M. Scaparrotti said in March. "But I would tell you, what you don't see is — within that lower violence level, it's less heavy artillery and more things like snipers, et cetera. So the casualties haven't gone down. In fact, they've gone up a bit ... It's still a hot war."

In such a fight, Javelins could be less useful now than they would have been earlier in the war when heavy weaponry was more of a factor.

The Javelin is a soldier-portable, fire-and-forget system with a range of up to 2.7 miles. It has an 18-pound tandem warhead consisting of two shaped charges — one to pierce reactive armor and the other to penetrate into the vehicle. Its top-attack ability allows it to hit a target from above, where the armor is usually thinnest. It can also be used against battlefield fortifications.

"The supply of the Javelin anti-tank weapon system is welcome news; however, it is long overdue and may be sending a wrong signal to Moscow," Ariel Cohen said in an Atlantic Council analysis of the Javelin deal. "While these missiles are necessary, they are supplied almost four years after they were requested, and in small numbers."

The weapons were needed in 2014, Cohen said. Their arrival now "may be signaling to Russia that the United States is very slow and will not respond with adequate strength and in a timely manner in the case of a major engagement."

In March, the State Department approved the sale of Javelin missiles and launch units at a cost of \$47 million. The deal involved 201 Javelin missiles and 37 launchers. The arrangement also includes U.S. government and contractor trainers.

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MILITARY

USAF special agent aids suicidal airman on Reddit

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

Online commenters worried about privacy might not like the idea of special agents among readers in online forums, but last week an Office of Special Investigations rookie on Reddit may have saved a fellow airman's life after noticing signs of distress on a message board frequented by airmen.

On the social media site's section for the Air Force, Senior Airman Charles Woomer noticed a subtle cry for help among posts complaining about LeaveWeb and inquiring about making the transition to the Guard and Reserve. Others did, too, according to an OSI statement issued Friday, but Woomer took action.

A poster asked how his group life insurance policy would pay out if "something" happened before he separated from the military. The person — he would turn out to be a suicidal husband and father — wanted to make sure his family would be

comfortable.

Woomer, a special agent with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations Detachment 322 at Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash., was one of several "Redditors" who noticed a worrisome tone in the post. He notified his leadership, and with guidance from Senior Airman Justin Collins, he contacted officials with Reddit and Google to identify the original poster.

Tracking down the airman's leadership was the next challenge. April 25, the day after Woomer noticed the post, was a training holiday, and it would take him and Collins 25 calls to get in touch with the airman's supervisor, who then notified the unit's first sergeant and went to the original poster's home.

The airman, who was scheduled to separate on April 28, confirmed to his supervisor he had made the post and intended to hurt himself before the end of the week. He was taken to a medical facility for treatment.

Suicidal thoughts were not new for the

airman, who had previously been diagnosed with depression but had run out of prescribed medication. The Air Force statement, which did not identify the airman, said the thoughts of self-harm likely returned because of the lapse in medication.

In Georgia, the airman's spouse and command thanked Woomer and Collins for intervening. Had they not stepped in, officials said, the airman could have left behind a spouse and two children under the age of 10.

On the Air Force Reddit section, or subreddit, users applauded Woomer's actions.

"This gives me warm fuzzies," said one user, who claimed to have seen the original post and had wondered what came of it. Some joked that the news was evidence OSI was spying on the online forum, but others offered praise, including one user who hoped the special agent would spot their comments.

Servicemembers and veterans who are in crisis can get free, confidential sup-

port around the clock by calling, texting or clicking the Military Crisis Line. The toll-free number is 800-273-8522 statewide or 838255 by text. The DSN number is 118 from Europe or South Korea. The website is <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net>.

A user on the Army subreddit last week shared his story of dealing with intrusive suicidal thoughts by reaching out for help, as he had been trained to do. Strategies learned in resiliency training and suicide prevention briefs, together with supportive friends, helped "process out" the feelings.

"These people literally saved my life this week," wrote the user, who goes by the handle psychopete. "Today, I scheduled myself for therapy and I'm active in an online support group at least until my first session. I won the battle and I'm prepped for war. I'm gonna make it."

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Influence: Polls show up to four-fifths of Serbs consider Russia their natural ally

FROM PAGE 4

The shows also regularly skewer U.S. Ambassador Kyle Scott in their commentaries while favorably reporting on his Russian counterpart, Alexander Chuprin.

A favorite topic in the tabloids and on TV talk shows is the alleged cancer epidemic sweeping Serbia and causing tens of thousands of deaths — all supposedly caused by NATO's use of depleted uranium munitions during the 1999 bombing campaign. Statements by the official medical authorities that the cancer rate has remained steady since the 1970s are dismissed out of hand.

Instead, pro-Russia "experts" claim that NATO warplanes intentionally sprayed Serbia with radioactive substances during the war to cause mass deaths.

"This narrative has been carefully cultivated over the years such that Russian government disinformation campaigns find very fertile ground among the population of Serbia," said a recent Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff report.

Public opinion polls show that up to four-fifths of Serbs consider Russia their natural ally and that many have a negative view of the West.

This despite the fact that hundreds of thousands of Serbs live and work in Germany, Austria and other EU countries and that their remittances are a major part of the country's gross domestic product.

Historic ties

Serbs and Russians have deep historical ties going back to Serbia's fight for independence from the Ottoman Empire in the 19th century. Serbia's dominant Orthodox church, which is closely linked to its Russian counterpart, continually stresses the religious and cultural ties between the two Slavic nations.



PHOTOS BY SLOBODAN LENIC/Stars and Stripes

The Serbian state television station was bombed by NATO warplanes on April 23, 1999, killing 16 employees.

Moscow also refuses to recognize Kosovo, where U.S. troops have been deployed in a peace-keeping role since 1999. Without Russia's recognition, Kosovo cannot join the United Nations and thus remains in international limbo a decade after independence.

"The West is only just now waking up to this fact the Kosovo issue plays a large role in Russia's penetration of Serbia," said Bosko Jaksic, an independent political analyst. "Putin is probably using this to set up an outpost here in order to show the West that Russia is a power to be reckoned with in the Balkans."

Under Vucic, a former pro-Russia ultranationalist turned reformer, the government's official strategic policy goal is to join the EU. Officials at the EU say it is now a leading candidate to join the bloc in the next round of expansion in 2025.

Despite his pro-EU policies, Vucic regularly slams the West

— and particularly the United States — for the countries' stand on Serbia over Kosovo and other issues. In contrast, he has never mentioned Russia in any negative context, Jaksic said.

Deep devotion

Western diplomats have repeatedly called on Belgrade to gradually align its foreign policies with the EU — one of the key conditions for membership. But no movement in that direction has been registered in the last several years, said a senior diplomat who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Instead, pro-Russia ministers, such as Foreign Minister Ivica Dacic and Defense Minister Aleksandar Vulin, have been advocating even closer military, economic and political ties with Moscow. And some top officials have publicly stated that Serbia will never cut its ties to Russia even at the cost of not joining the



Visitors at Belgrade's air force museum view the wreckage of an F-117 stealth attack jet downed during the U.S.-led NATO bombing campaign against Serbia in 1999.

EU.

In the past several months, Washington, the EU and NATO — which until now have been focused mainly on the Russian threat in the Baltics and Poland — have woken up to the threat of Moscow's quiet infiltration into the Balkans, where it has already been stirring trouble in neighboring Montenegro, but also in Bosnia and Macedonia.

Montenegro became the 29th member of NATO last year, a step that was bitterly criticized by Russia. Montenegrin and Western officials believe that a coup attempt in 2016 that involved two Russian intelligence agents and several Serbian nationals was orchestrated by the Kremlin to destabilize the country ahead of its NATO accession.

Last year, Moscow presented Serbia with half a dozen old MiG-29 fighters to augment the four Serbian MiGs which survived the 1999 war. The "gift" — which included several dozen obsolete, Soviet-era tanks and armored personnel vehicles — was trumpeted by the pro-Russia media and Kremlin-owned outlets as a major addition to Serbia's security.

"What they naturally neglected to point out is that the jets would have to be refurbished by Russian firms to be made airworthy, and that this would cost Serbia several hundred million dollars, a huge sum in one of Europe's poorest countries," Jaksic said.

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VETERANS

WWII pilot will finally get Arlington burial

Veteran was declared missing in action nearly 74 years ago

By NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The family of Lt. William Punnell never imagined he would be found.

At age 27, Punnell was the commanding officer of his fighting squadron during World War II. He was shot down over the Pacific Ocean in July 1944 while on a mission to strafe Japanese targets on the Republic of Palau. Japanese troops on the island returned fire and hit Punnell's aircraft, which crashed in the ocean and sank on impact.

Punnell's nephew, Dennis Kelvie, was born two weeks before the crash. When Kelvie was growing up in rural South Dakota, Punnell was the "hero of the household," he said. The whole family presumed he would always be missing.

"It was never even thought of that someone would find him. It was never considered," said Kelvie, now 73. "The ocean is a big place."

However, after years of attempts, Punnell's remains and his aircraft, an F6F "Hellcat," were found and recovered from the Pacific in 2014. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency officially identified the remains last year, using Kelvie's DNA.

Punnell will get a burial with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery on Wednesday — nearly 74 years after he was declared missing in action.

"If anybody in the world ever deserved to be buried with military honors, my uncle did," Kelvie said. "He's finally getting what he deserves."

Punnell was from Flandreau, S.D., and joined the Navy immediately after graduating high school. He was married shortly before he deployed to the Pacific theater, and the couple had a son that Punnell never met. Most of his family — including his parents, two sisters, wife and son — have since died.

Kelvie and his three sons are Punnell's last living relatives. Kelvie and his oldest son, William, who is named for his great-uncle, plan to attend the ceremony at Arlington.

"We're excited," Kelvie said of the ceremony. "I just wish my grandpa's parents could be here, and my mother and aunt."

But the Kelvies won't be alone. Some of the investigators who spent hundreds of hours searching for Punnell will stand alongside them at his gravesite.

"At the end of the day, why we do this has nothing to do with the crash site itself, or the aluminum, or even the adventure," said Pat Scannon, a principal investigator with Project Recover — the group that found Punnell. "It's all about the families."



Photos courtesy of Project Recover

The underwater crash site of Navy pilot Lt. William Punnell and his F6F "Hellcat" is shown. Investigators with the Defense Department and Project Recover found the site in 2014 off the coast of the Republic of Palau and recovered Punnell's remains.

About that time, he searched the National Archives and discovered many Americans shot down near the Palau islands during WWII remained missing.

"And I decided to do something about it," he said.

Scannon began searching for Punnell a decade before he found him. He and his team spent hundreds of hours diving around the Palau coast, looking for signs of the Hellcat.

Then Scannon met Mark Moline, director of the School of Marine Science and Policy at the University of Delaware. Moline had underwater vehicles that could boost Scannon's search capabilities from a few thousand square feet each day with scuba divers to 4 kilometers with the new technology.

"That's like going from riding a horse to flying a jet in terms of the extent of area we can cover," Scannon said.

The two teamed up and formed Project Recover, which now conducts underwater searches around the world for missing servicemembers from all eras. It's a collaboration between the University of Delaware, the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California San Diego and the BentProp Project, a nonprofit that Scannon founded in the 1990s.

The group receives a mix of public and private funding, including a contribution from billionaire Dan Friedkin, chairman of The Friedkin Group.

In 2017, Project Recover discovered nine aircraft, which could result in the repatriation of up to 36 servicemembers missing in action.



Punnell, right, the commanding officer of his fighting squadron during World War II, was shot down over the Pacific Ocean in 1944.

Family closure

In Punnell's case, an after-action report from 1944 pinpointed his crash site about 300 feet from the Palau coast.

Using a team of scuba divers, along with the underwater vehicles and other technology, Project Recover located the Hellcat — first its tail, then the rest of it — about 600 yards from the coast along an underwater cliff.

When they found it, the team anchored a boat over the site and held a ceremony for Punnell. They unfurled an American flag and said a few words for him and his family.

Because of a thorough identification process, three more years passed before the Defense Department notified Kelvie that Punnell had been found.

"It brought up emotions I didn't even remember that I had," Kelvie recalled. "Because it was kind of like something magical was happening."

On Wednesday, Scannon, Moline and other members of Project Recover will give the flag that they used to mark Punnell's discovery in 2014 to Kelvie.

"The family closure — that's the most rewarding part of this," Moline said. "It's the reminder of why we do it."

'It was never even thought of that someone would find him. It was never considered. The ocean is a big place.'

Dennis Kelvie
nephew of Lt. William Punnell

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Underwater search for MIAs

Since 1993, Scannon has been focused on finding crash sites of missing WWII servicemembers near Palau — an island country in the western Pacific Ocean.

WAR/MILITARY



PHOTOS BY RAHMAT GUL/AF

Relatives, colleagues and friends attend the funeral Tuesday of AFP chief photographer Shah Marai, who was killed in a suicide attack in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Monday.

Thousands attend memorial for Afghan photographer killed in blast

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Thousands of mourners attended a memorial ceremony Tuesday for Agence France-Presse's chief photographer in Afghanistan, who was killed along with eight other reporters in a double suicide bombing in Kabul by Islamic State.

Relatives, friends and government officials gathered to pay tribute to Shah Marai and extend condolences to his family and colleagues for their loss the day before.

Marai, 41, was the father of six children. His youngest, a daughter, was born a little over two weeks ago.

Monday marked the deadliest assault on reporters since the fall of the Taliban in 2001, according to Reporters Without Borders, also known by its French acronym RSF.

The bombings in Kabul killed 25 people and wounded at least 45.

RSF said 36 media workers have been killed in Afghanistan in attacks by ISIS or the Taliban since 2016.

Also on Tuesday, an Afghan official said an airstrike targeting Taliban fighters has killed six civilians in the southern Helmand province.

Mir Ahmad, a provincial council member in Helmand, said two other civilians were wounded in the airstrike by the Afghan air force late Monday in



The coffin of Marai is carried in his village, Guldara, a district of Kabul province, Afghanistan.

the Nad Ali district.

He said the strike killed around a dozen Taliban insurgents.

Omar Zwak, spokesman for the provincial government, confirmed the airstrike but said all the killed and wounded were Taliban members.

Elsewhere in Helmand province, a roadside bomb struck a vehicle in the Gareshk district, killing at least three civilians, according to the district chief, Mohammad Saleem Roodi.

Group: Airstrike in Syria kills kids, women, elderly

By SARAH EL DEEB
Associated Press

BEIRUT — Airstrikes killed at least 23 civilians on Tuesday in one of the last pockets of Islamic State-controlled territory in Syria, according to Syrian state media and an opposition-linked monitoring group, as U.S.-backed forces in the area announced they have resumed their campaign against the extremists.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said it was not clear if the airstrikes in the Hassakeh province were carried out by the U.S.-led coalition or the Iraqi air force. It said the strikes killed 10 children, six women and seven elderly people. The state-run Syrian News Agency said 25 civilians were killed in the airstrikes south of the town of Shadadi, blaming the U.S.-led coalition.

The strikes took place in an area where the U.S.-backed and Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces are battling ISIS.

Lelwa Abdullah, an SDF spokeswoman in the adjacent Deir el-Zour province, said Tuesday the final phase of a large operation against ISIS in eastern Syria has begun.

She said the SDF will "liberate those areas and secure the Syrian-Iraqi border and end the ISIS presence in eastern Syria once and for all."

The SDF had deployed hundreds of its forces to western Syria after Turkish troops attacked the Kurdish-held Afrin enclave earlier this year, effectively putting operations against ISIS on hold.

Abdullah said ISIS attacks have increased in recent weeks in parts of eastern Syria near the border with Iraq as the extremists seek to regroup. She said the clearing operations will take place with the help of the U.S.-led coalition and Iraqi forces across the border.

Elsewhere in Syria on Tuesday, more than three dozen Syrians held for years by al-Qaida-linked insurgents in the country's northwest were released as part of a deal to hand over areas around Damascus to the government, state media reported.

State-run Al-Ikhbariya TV broadcast images of the released men, women, children, who arrived by bus at a government-controlled checkpoint in Aleppo province. Many were in tears, and they could be seen kissing and hugging Syrian soldiers. The captives had been held by

the insurgents in northern Syria since 2015.

It is the latest in a series of evacuation deals for areas around the capital that have been besieged for years and subjected to heavy bombardment by government forces. The U.N. and rights groups have criticized the deals, saying they amount to forced displacement.

The latest deal concerns Yarmouk, a Palestinian refugee camp that was a built-up residential area before the civil war. ISIS militants still control parts of the camp and a neighboring area, where they are battling government forces.

The 42 people freed on Tuesday are the first batch of more than 80 to be released.

Under the deal, fighters from the al-Qaida-linked Hayat Tahrir al-Sham group will withdraw from Yarmouk, while about 5,000 people in Foua and Kfraya, two northwestern villages besieged by insurgents, will be allowed to relocate to government-held areas.

Al-Ikhbariya said nearly 20 wounded or ill from the two besieged villages were evacuated Tuesday.

But the evacuation has apparently stalled amid security concerns, with the residents asking that they all be evacuated together instead of in batches.

The Observatory said five buses carrying around 200 insurgents from Yarmouk arrived at the handover area south of Aleppo.

The U.N. has warned of "catastrophic consequences" for the remaining inhabitants of Yarmouk as the fighting continues.

The camp was established in 1957 for Palestinians who fled the 1948 war with Israel, and later evolved into a densely populated urban neighborhood that was home to tens of thousands of Palestinians and Syrians. It has seen heavy fighting since the early days of the 7-year-old civil war, and ISIS pushed into the district in 2015.

"Yarmouk and its inhabitants have endured indescribable pain and suffering over years of conflict," Pierre Knibbe, head of the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, said last week.

The latest fighting has displaced around 5,000 civilians from Yarmouk into the neighboring area of Yalda, the U.N. said. It's not clear how many civilians remain in Yarmouk.

Report: Some key data kept from public

FROM FRONT PAGE

SIGAR said that the U.S. military continues to keep private other key data that would help gauge the progress of the United States' longest war, now in its 17th year.

U.S. Forces-Afghanistan did recently release information related to population, control over land and other areas.

"While USFOR-A's action was helpful, it still entailed less detailed responses than SIGAR received previously in some areas," SIGAR said.

Still being kept from the public are casualty numbers and de-

tailed performance assessments of Afghan forces, as well as the operational readiness of Army and police equipment, the watchdog said.

USFOR-A told SIGAR that much of the information was kept from the public at the request of the Afghan government.

Despite the drop in personnel, the Afghan government made some modest improvements, SIGAR said.

As of Jan. 31, roughly 65 percent of the population lived in areas under government control or influence, up 1 percentage point since last quarter.

Insurgents continued to control or influence areas where 12 percent of the population lived — unchanged from last quarter — while the population living in contested areas decreased to roughly 23 percent, SIGAR said, citing USFOR-A data.

The government controlled or influenced 65.6 percent of the population and the insurgency only 9.2 percent, a slight improvement in recent months but down from the same period last year, SIGAR said.

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MILITARY



PHOTOS BY MARTIN EGNASH/Stars and Stripes

A stormtrooper, played by fourth-grader Bobby Silva, is cross-examined by the defense during the mock trial of Luke Skywalker in Vilsack, Germany, on Tuesday.



Capt. Brett Grantham, the prosecutor, makes his opening remarks to the fourth-grade jury.



Darth Vader, played by fourth-grader Xavier Maul, testifies.

The defense looked like it could prove it would be impossible to tell who exactly piloted the X-wing fighter in question — until a shocking courtroom twist in the middle of the trial when Skywalker admitted to blowing up the Death Star.

All seemed lost for the young rebel from Tatooine until the defense switched tactics to proving that blowing up the Death Star was actually the right thing to do. Cross-examination of Darth Vader, portrayed by Xavier Maul, revealed to the jury that the Empire not only used the Death Star to blow up the peaceful planet of Alderaan but also planned on possibly using the star base to vaporize more planets in the future.

That swung the jury in Skywalker's favor, and they agreed his actions were warranted. The death of the 5,999 stormtroopers, "though tragic," paled in comparison with the millions of innocents silenced by the Death Star's super-laser.

"During the course of the trial it became apparent that my client (Skywalker) would have to take the stand and explain his actions, and the jury responded well to that," Hewett said.

This is the third year a trial like this has taken place to teach the kids on base about the legal system.

"They were excited that Luke Skywalker was found not guilty," Hunter said. "They loved taking part in the trial. Even those students that were part of the audience enjoyed it."

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Man who posted 'puppet oath' clip decries outcome

BY WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

If Steven Mayne could do it all again, he would not have posted the video that went viral and led to the forced retirement of a Tennessee Air National Guard colonel for allowing a re-enlistment ceremony that included a dinosaur hand puppet.

"For the part I played in this, I truly am sorry," Mayne wrote in a guest column on Military.com on Sunday. "I'm unsure if there is any good that can be done here, but I ask the adjutant general to reconsider these actions now that the fog of war has lifted and the media interest has waned. We need to make this right."

Air Guard Col. Kevin Blaser administered the oath on April 18 for Master Sgt. Robin Brown while she wore a dinosaur hand puppet on her raised right hand as it mouthed the oath she recited.

After Mayne posted the video on his "Air Force amn/no/snco" Facebook page, it went viral and sparked outrage among some viewers who thought the ceremony was conducted in an undignified manner. The video was picked up by myriad media outlets and garnered millions of views.

Five days later, Maj. Gen. Terry Haston, the Tennessee Air Guard's adjutant general, announced on Facebook that the colonel would be forced to retire and that Brown had been removed from her full-time position with the Tennessee Joint Public Affairs Office. It was later revealed that Brown would not be allowed to re-enlist.

A senior NCO who shot the video was removed from his position as a unit first sergeant and received an official reprimand.

During the days before the Haston announcement, Mayne killing that he had assumed Tennessee Air National Guard officials "would simply re-do the re-enlistment with minor administrative punishment and it would not be a big deal."

But Mayne, a retired Air Force master sergeant, said the punishment meted out was "entirely too harsh" and left him in "shock."

"In a service that reduced a chief master sergeant to a senior master sergeant and allowed him to retire after killing a child by DUI, and also retired a colonel before he started a jail sentence for rape, the punishments to me did not fit the offense in this case," he wrote. "I do not feel the actions taken by Haston were proportional to the infractions committed."

Mayne wrote that he doesn't know when a particular video on his site might go viral, but he feels remorse over this one doing so.

"Being shared on my page probably caused it to go more viral than it might have done," he wrote. "And if I had the chance to do it over again, I would not have shared the video."

Mayne said he hopes Haston will reconsider and allow Brown to re-enlist and continue her career, reinstate Blaser as colonel and waive punishment of the first sergeant.

Mayne told Stars and Stripes in an email Monday that he had gotten no response from the Tennessee Air National Guard to his column, which was essentially an open letter to the chain of command.

"I figured for the part I played, I had to do something even if it meant some folks being mad at me or my page," he wrote.

Meanwhile, the 53-year-old Blaser recently told Military.com he made a poor decision for the oath.

"I should have probably stopped the ceremony," he told the site. "That was bad judgment, I one hundred percent admit that."

But he said the mistake did not warrant forced retirement, which he had to take as a lieutenant colonel because he had not completed three years as a colonel.

He said he does not plan to appeal the punishment.

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With JAG help, students 'acquit' Luke Skywalker

BY MARTIN EGNASH
Stars and Stripes

VILSECK, Germany — In a courtroom far, far away, Luke Skywalker was found not guilty of charges of galactic terrorism by base elementary school children during an educational trial on Tuesday.

The trial, part of the base's "Law Day," had two fourth-grade classes act as judges, lawyers and the jury in the trial of Skywalker, the hero of the "Star Wars" movies. Base Judge Advocate General Corps lawyers assisted each side in making their case.

"The primary benefit is to give them an understanding of the American legal system of justice that may be different than what they see in the movies or on TV," said Dr. Bill Hunter, the teacher in charge of the program. "This allowed students to experience the legal system in a way in which they can understand with characters that many of them already know."

"I think this is a great opportunity for the kids to learn about how trials work, and what lawyers do," said Capt. Benjamin Hewett, the JAG representing

Skywalker's defense. "I mean, as a kid, how many chances to you ever get to talk to a lawyer and ask questions?"

The trial began with the prosecution's JAG, Capt. Brett Grantham, representing the Galactic Empire, telling the jury the horrors of what happened to the Death Star and accusing Luke Skywalker of blowing it up, killing 5,999 "innocent stormtroopers."

Among the prosecution's witnesses were Emperor Palpatine, Darth Vader and the only stormtrooper who escaped the Death Star's destruction, all played by fourth-graders.

Each witness identified Luke Skywalker, portrayed by fourth-grader Ethan Bettis, as the culprit responsible for the galactic base's untimely demise.

However, the defense pointed out the difficulties of correctly identifying the pilot of a standard X-Wing Fighter spacecraft like the one flown by Skywalker, from miles away and when traveling at thousands of miles per hour.

"Isn't it true that Rebel Alliance uniforms look similar to each other, and the X-wing was moving very fast," the defense's Mackenzie Peikert asked.

AWOL Marine charged in connection with 2nd death

ROANOKE RAPIDS, N.C. — Authorities say an 18-year-old AWOL Marine charged with killing his grandmother is now suspected in a second North Carolina death.

Halifax County authorities said Isaiah Kahlel Evans Caesar was charged Monday with murder in the April 11 death of Roderick Bluesky Mills, of Hollister. Investigators say they have evidence linking Caesar to the crime but haven't elaborated.

Caesar was arrested after the body of Sally Evans, 74, was found Friday near Roanoke Rapids. Sheriff Wes Tripp said investigators found Caesar after he used his grandmother's credit card to rent a hotel room.

Authorities say Caesar has been AWOL from Fort Benning, Ga., since April 2. Evans' family says she was trying to get her grandson to return to the Marines.

From The Associated Press

VETERANS



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHRISTOPHER WILSON/AP

Cluttered and unsanitary conditions are seen in an exam room at a Veterans Affairs clinic in Salt Lake City.

VA clinic is investigating after tweets on 'unsanitary' room in Salt Lake City

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — A Veterans Affairs clinic in Salt Lake City is investigating why an Army veteran was put in a room with an overflowing trash can and medical supplies strewn about after the man's father tweeted images of the unclean space.

Stephen Wilson, the father of Christopher Wilson, who spent six years in the Army and was deployed to Iraq twice, posted the photos to Twitter on Friday, calling the sight "very unprofessional, unsanitary and disrespectful," the Deseret News reported.

The post had been retweeted nearly 17,000 times as of Monday afternoon, with about 2,400 comments about the photos and post.

"The condition of the room was the way it was when he went in, no other room was offered and no attempt to clean it up was made for the duration of his appointment," Stephen Wilson also tweeted.

Dr. Karen Gribbin, chief of staff at the George E. Wahlen Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Utah, apologized on Monday and said at a news conference that the staff was focused on ending Christopher Wilson's wait on April 5 and didn't notice the state of the room.

She said discipline is possible for staff members, but she said they are still trying to understand what happened.

"Mr. Wilson should not have been placed in the room in that condition," Gribbin said. "The room should be cleaned, supplies and trash removed, before the next patient is placed in there."

Gribbin said she apologized to Christopher Wilson on Saturday and again Monday "for his experience."

Christopher Wilson, 33, said he was at the facility to get 18 injections in his ankle and surrounding area.



The VA is investigating why Army veteran Stephen Wilson was put in an "unsanitary" room.

Probe: Asbestos contamination at Mass. VA hospital

By NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Management at the Department of Veterans Affairs hospital in Bedford, Mass., knew of an asbestos contamination for years but continued to put veterans and employees at risk of exposure, the U.S. Office of the Special Counsel said Tuesday.

In a letter Monday to President Donald Trump and members of the House and Senate veterans' affairs committees, Special Counsel Henry Kerner said multiple buildings at the Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital were contaminated with asbestos and that management had known about it since 2014.

"For years, the Bedford VA Medical Center failed to implement a robust safety inspection program to identify contaminated work spaces," Kerner said in a statement.

Whistleblowers at the facility alerted the special counsel to the contamination last year, and the VA Office of Occupational Safety and Health followed up with an investigation.

Investigators found several instances when workers were put at risk of exposure to airborne asbestos that could've been mitigated with better management practices. Because of the situation, "trust between management and employees is strained," the VA wrote in its report to the special counsel.

The VA substantiated that hospital management was first notified of the asbestos after a 2014 inspection by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. However, the agency asserted that managers did not break any rule or law.

"VA believes that the findings do not show evidence that the medical center or its employees

engaged in gross mismanagement and an abuse of authority," the VA report states. "There was no indication of willful intent to harm workers or violate standards, rule or law."

In his letter to Trump and Congress, Kerner declared the matter closed. The VA is required to update the special counsel on the situation in 60 days.

"The facility is now taking this problem seriously, monitoring employee health and carrying out more fulsome measures to ensure safety for employees and veterans," Kerner said.

The case follows another report by the special counsel in January that a father and daughter who worked in the Bedford hospital's engineering department made \$750,000 in improper purchases and diverted money to a relative's landscaping business.

The special counsel sharply criticized hospital management, saying they acted indifferently to the ethical violations.

The hospital also came under scrutiny in October last year after the Boston Globe reported a nurse's aide was allegedly playing games on her computer when a veteran went into cardiac arrest and died.

In response to that scandal and other reports of whistleblower retaliation at the facility, former VA Secretary David Shulkin visited the hospital in November.

"I think you're seeing what happens when you have a continued shift of leadership," Shulkin said at the time, according to a report from the Lowell, Mass., newspaper.

At the time, the hospital was on its third director in slightly more than a year. The VA named a new permanent director for the hospital in March.

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NATION

Report reveals Mueller's questions for Trump

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The New York Times late Monday published the nearly four dozen questions that the special counsel investigating Russian election interference gave to President Donald Trump's attorneys, covering Trump's motivations for firing FBI Director James Comey last May and contacts between Trump campaign officials and Russians.

Trump said Tuesday it's "disgraceful" that the list of questions that the special counsel wants to ask him was "leaked" to the news media.

"It is so disgraceful that the questions concerning the Russian Witch Hunt were 'leaked' to the media," Trump tweeted Tuesday. "No questions on Collision. Oh, I see...you have a made up, phony criminal collusion that never existed, and an investigation begun with illegally leaked classified information. Nice!"

In a second tweet, Trump said, "It would seem very hard to obstruct justice for a crime that hasn't happened."

But the questions do appear to



ANDREW HARNIK/AP

Nearly four dozen questions that special counsel Robert Mueller, second from left, gave to President Donald Trump's attorneys were published in The New York Times.

indicate that Mueller is looking into possible collusion. Some touch on Russian meddling and whether the Trump campaign coordinated in any way with the Kremlin. In one question obtained by the Times, Mueller asks what Trump knew about campaign staff, including former campaign chairman Paul Manafort, reaching out

to Moscow.

Mueller has brought several charges against Manafort but none for any crimes related to Russian election interference during the 2016 campaign. Manafort has denied having anything to do with such an effort.

Trump repeatedly has called the investigation by special coun-

sel Robert Mueller a "witch hunt" and insists there was no collusion between his campaign and Russia. Trump has also accused Comey of leaking classified information. Mueller was appointed to oversee the investigation by the deputy attorney general after Trump fired Comey in May 2017.

Although Mueller's team has indicated to Trump's lawyers that he's not considered a target, investigators remain interested in whether the president's actions constitute obstruction of justice and want to interview him about several episodes in office.

Many of the questions obtained by the Times center on the obstruction issue, including his reaction to Attorney General Jeff Sessions' recusal from the Russia investigation, a decision Trump has angrily criticized.

Trump lawyer Jay Sekulow declined to comment to The Associated Press on Monday night, as did White House lawyer Ty Cobb.

The queries also touch on Trump's businesses and his discussions with his personal lawyer, Michael Cohen, about a possible Moscow real estate deal. Cohen's business dealings are part of a

separate FBI investigation.

One question asks what discussions Trump may have had regarding "any meeting with Mr. Putin," referring to Russian President Vladimir Putin. Another question asks what the president may have known about a possible attempt by his son-in-law, Jared Kushner, to set up a back channel with Russia before Trump's inauguration.

Additional questions center on Michael Flynn, Trump's former national security adviser, who has pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about his discussions on sanctions against Russia with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak during the presidential transition. Flynn is now cooperating with Mueller's investigators.

Flynn was fired Feb. 13, 2017, after White House officials said he had misled them about his Russian contacts during the transition period by saying that he had not discussed sanctions.

The following day, according to memos written by Comey, Trump called the Oval Office of other officials and encouraged Comey to drop the investigation into Flynn.

Pentagon IG considering probe of allegations against Ronny Jackson

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Pentagon investigators are mulling an official probe into allegations that Rear Adm. Ronny Jackson, the failed nominee to lead the Department of Veterans Affairs, regularly behaved improperly as the top physician of the White House Medical Unit, Defense Department officials confirmed Tuesday.

The department's inspector general has received the allegations and is determining whether they merit a formal investigation of Jackson, said Tom Crosson, a spokesman for the Pentagon. Jackson has served as the top physician to President Donald Trump and former President Barack Obama since 2013. He withdrew his nomination last week to serve as Trump's VA chief amid accusations that included overprescribing medications and drinking on duty.

The initial IG inquiry is focused on determining "what investigations and reviews have already been conducted related to these issues, any jurisdictional issues that may relate to the allegations, and the scope of the allegations and complaints related to these issues," Crosson said.

The probe threatens to derail Jackson's future with the Navy. The one-star admiral remains on active duty and was nominated in March to receive a second star before Trump unexpectedly

tapped him for the VA's top job. That promotion remains pending with the Senate Armed Services Committee, documents show.

Democrats on that committee, which approves promotions of senior military officers, have called for the allegations to be investigated before lawmakers consider Jackson's promotion. A committee official declined to comment on the nomination.

Navy officials also declined Tuesday to discuss the nomination or any past or present investigations by the service into the allegations raised against Jackson.

For now, Jackson remains in his position at the White House, a spokesman said Tuesday, denying media reports that he would not continue as Trump's physician.

"Rear Admiral Ronny Jackson is currently on active duty, assigned to the White House as deputy assistant to the president," said Raj Shah, White House principal deputy press secretary. "Despite published reports, there are no personnel announcements at this time."

Jackson has served 23 years as a Navy physician, including a tour in 2005 as an emergency medicine physician in Iraq. He has worked in the White House Medical Unit since 2006 during former President George W. Bush's administration. Obama nominated him to lead the White House's team of physicians in 2013.

Last week, Democrats on the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee released some of the accusa-

tions made against Jackson by 23 of his current and former coworkers in the White House Medical Unit. They portrayed Jackson as an unstable and power-hungry leader who drank on duty and freely handed out prescription medications.

Initially raised by Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., the ranking member on the veterans affairs committee, the allegations included dispensing the narcotic Percocet without proper paperwork and of drunkenly wrecking a government vehicle during a Secret Service party.

Jackson has denied the allegations, which have not been substantiated. Nonetheless, he withdrew from consideration to serve as VA secretary Thursday.

Tester's decision to release the allegations drew Trump's ire over the weekend even as Republican lawmakers defended the senator's actions.

The president took to Twitter to rail against Tester on Saturday, hours before calling for the senator's resignation during a campaign-style rally in Michigan.

"Allegations made by Senator Jon Tester against Admiral/Doctor Ron Jackson are proving false," Trump tweeted. "The Secret Service is unable to confirm (in fact they deny) any of the phony Democrat charges which have absolutely devastated the wonderful Jackson family. Tester should resign."

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EVAN VUCCA/AP

White House Chief of Staff John Kelly said reports that he called the president an idiot are "total BS."

Kelly: 'Total BS' that he called Trump an 'idiot'

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — New details emerged on the rift between White House chief of staff John Kelly and President Donald Trump, with one former administration official saying Kelly privately called Trump "an idiot" last year.

Kelly's insult to the president's intelligence, confirmed to The Associated Press by the former official, came as his clashes with Trump over policy and personnel grew louder and more frequent. Kelly, who has cast himself as safeguarding the public from the president, has also threatened to quit the White House on several occasions.

Kelly's disparaging remark was first reported Monday by NBC News. In a statement Monday, Kelly called the report "total BS," and characterized his relation-

ship with Trump as "incredibly candid and strong." He added of the president, "He always knows where I stand and he and I both know this story is total BS."

Kelly's top aide, Zachary Fuentes, also disputed the characterization, saying he had never heard Kelly describe the president that way.

"Remember, he is a Marine. Once a Marine, always a Marine," said Fuentes. "The office of the commander in chief is held to the highest regard."

In recent months, Trump has chafed at Kelly's management style and has occasionally talked with friends about replacing him.

Kelly has told people close to him that he wanted to make the one-year mark in the position that would mean late July — though he no longer is confident he will.

NATION

US delays decision on tariffs for EU, others

WASHINGTON — The U.S. government will take another 30 days to decide whether to impose tariffs on imports of steel and aluminum from the European Union, Canada and Mexico, extending a period of uncertainty for businesses in those regions.

The delay helps the U.S. avoid a potential trade war with allies as it prepares for tense trade talks in China this week. But the EU slammed the decision as bad for business and said it "prolongs market uncertainty, which is already affecting business decisions."

"As a longstanding partner and friend of the U.S., we will not negotiate under threat," the EU said in a statement Tuesday.

Pension costs play role in teacher protests

DENVER — The loudest rallying cries from Colorado teachers protesting for more education dollars were about dwindling paychecks that are losing ground to the state's rising cost of living.

Teachers usually say a persistent funding shortage led them to walk off the job, but among the biggest reasons for lagging pay is one of the least understood — the rising cost of state pensions.

Colorado isn't the only state where, an underfunded retirement system has played a role in a teacher uprising sweeping the U.S. In Kentucky, educators in at least 20 school districts walked out of their classrooms after the GOP-led Legislature in March passed a measure reducing retirement benefits for future teachers.

WhatsApp CEO to leave Facebook amid scandal

SAN FRANCISCO — WhatsApp CEO Jan Koum is breaking ties with his company's parent, Facebook, amid a privacy scandal that has dogged the social network for weeks.

Koum confirmed his departure from WhatsApp on Monday on his Facebook page. The Washington Post reported that Koum also plans to resign from Facebook's board of directors. Facebook wouldn't comment on that report.

Koum didn't elaborate on his reasons for leaving other than to say it was time to "move on" so he could spend more time "collecting rare air-cooled Porsches, working on my cars and playing Ultimate Frisbee."

Stormy Daniels sues Trump for defamation

Stormy Daniels filed a new lawsuit against President Donald Trump on Monday, alleging that he defamed her in a tweet that mocked the porn actress for saying a man once physically threatened her on Trump's behalf.

Daniels, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford, cited Trump's tweet about a forensic artist's sketch of a man who she says confronted her in a Las Vegas parking lot in 2011.

"A sketch years later about a nonexistent man," Trump wrote in the April 18 tweet. "A total con job, playing the Fake News Media for Fools (but they know it)!"

From wire reports

‘Fake news’ gets Trump off the hook

By CALLUM BORCHERS

The Washington Post

Just a few months ago, President Donald Trump grew frustrated during a meeting in the Oval Office about protections for immigrants from Haiti, El Salvador and African countries and asked, "Why are we having all these people from s--hole countries come here?"

The African Union condemned the remark at the time. On Monday, Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari became the first of its members to visit the Trump White House.

ANALYSIS

"Did you address his reported comments from earlier this year, when he reportedly used vulgar language to describe African nations?" Jordan Fabian, of the Hill, asked Buhari during a joint news conference.

Buhari's response showcased one possible effect of Trump's "fake news" refrain.

"Well," Buhari began, "I'm very careful with what the press says about others than myself. I'm not sure about, you know, the validity or whether that allegation against the president was true or not. So the best thing for me is to keep quiet."

If he truly doubts that Trump made the statement, partly in reference to African countries, then Buhari may be one of the few. Even the White House initially did not dispute The Washington Post's report on the comment in January.

Sen. Richard J. Durbin, D-Ill., who attended

the meeting, told reporters, "I cannot believe that in the history of the White House, in that Oval Office, any president has ever spoken the words that I personally heard our president speak yesterday."

Sen. Lindsey O. Graham, R-S.C., another attendee, also seemed to confirm Trump's remark when he said in a statement that "following comments by the president, I said my piece directly to him."

Trump's media boosters generally accepted The Post's report but defended the president's remark as the kind of unvarnished rhetoric that got him elected.

Later, however, Trump denied saying the word, tweeting:

"The language used by me at the DACA meeting was tough, but this was not the language used. What was really tough was the outlandish proposal made — a big setback for DACA!"

The Post's Josh Dawsey subsequently reported that there is disagreement within the White House about whether Trump said "s--hole" or "s--house." The latter might not be any less offensive but would make Trump's denial technically accurate.

Perhaps Buhari believes Trump's denial. In that case, it is possible that Trump is successfully convincing world leaders that U.S. media accounts are often fake.

More likely, Buhari decided that a confrontation was not worthwhile.

"Security is the main issue," he said during a photo op before a private meeting with

Trump. "We are very grateful to the United States for agreeing to give us the aircraft we asked for — the spare parts. We are even more grateful for the physical presence of the United States military."

Between the photo op and the news conference, Buhari had precisely 84 minutes with Trump.

Why spend any of them on a subject that could send a meeting off the rails? Trump's propensity for denials is so strong that he could not help but chime in during the news conference, even though he was not asked about the comment.

"We didn't discuss it," Trump said. "And you do have some countries that are in very bad shape and very tough places to live in. But we didn't discuss it because the president knows me, and he knows where I'm coming from, and I appreciate that. We did not discuss it."

Had Buhari gone there, Trump might have eaten up precious meeting time. Instead, Buhari put a smile on Trump's face by questioning the "validity" of the reporting.

Trump has attempted to bond with other world leaders over "fake news." Just last week, French President Emmanuel Macron addressed Congress and issued a denunciation of "fake news" that could have been interpreted as an overture to Trump, who Macron said deserves "the fair copyright for this expression."

Buhari may be the latest head of state to recognize that throwing a shot at the media is one way to get on Trump's good side.



MARK LENNHAUS/AP

May Day march

Protesters march on Wall Street in front of the New York Stock Exchange on Tuesday. Marches and other demonstrations for labor and immigrant rights were planned from Florida to New York to California on May Day — International Workers' Day — and come amid similar actions worldwide.

Parkland shooting victim's father sues school officer, others

The Washington Post

Meadow Pollack was a senior at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School with plans to go to college when she was shot to death in the hallway on Feb. 14. Her father, Andrew Pollack, said that after Meadow was shot the first time, she crawled over to throw her arms around a cowering freshman student before the shooter repeatedly shot her in the back, killing both girls.

Now, Pollack has filed a wrongful-death lawsuit not just against Nikolas Cruz, the man accused of killing his daughter and 16 others that day, but against everyone the lawsuit says failed to stop him. That includes Scot Peterson, the school security officer who was widely criticized after surveillance footage revealed he did not go inside the school during the shooting rampage.

"I'm not interested in any money," Pollack told the Sun Sentinel. "I just want to expose what a coward [Peterson] was and that he could've saved everybody on the third floor. I don't want him to go anywhere in the country and not have people recognize what a coward he is."

The lawsuit was filed in Broward County Circuit Court on Monday and seeks unspecified damages.

Two minutes after the shooting began inside the school's Building 12, Peterson told the Broward

Sheriff's Communication Dispatch, "Be advised, we have possible — could be firecrackers. I think we have shots fired, possible shots fired."

He did not go inside the school after that.

Broward County Sheriff Scott Israel suspended Peterson and condemned his actions after the surveillance footage emerged, saying he was the only armed person on the school campus who could have intervened when the shooting started. Peterson retired shortly after his suspension.

Peterson's lawyer, Joseph DiRuzzo III, could not immediately be reached for comment, but he defended Peterson in February by saying his client didn't go inside because he thought the gunfire was outside.

The lawsuit also names the estate of Cruz's mother, Lynda Cruz, who died in November 2017, and three mental or behavioral health centers, all of whom are accused of failing to provide Cruz proper treatment or services despite repeated signs of his mental health issues and aggressive behavior.

James and Kimberly Snead, who allowed Cruz to live with them after his mother died, are sued for allegedly failing to adequately secure the guns Cruz owned, including the one he is accused of using to shoot up Marjory Stoneman Douglas.

WORLD

Israeli: Seized nuke archive could deter Iran

By ARON HELLER
Associated Press

JERUSALEM — An Israeli Cabinet minister said Tuesday his country's dramatic seizure of what it purports to be Iran's nuclear program archive could help deter the Islamic Republic from trying to strike Israel.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu unveiled Monday what he claimed was a "half-ton" of Iranian nuclear documents collected by Israeli intelligence, claiming it proved Iranian leaders covered up a nuclear weapons program before signing a deal with world powers in 2015.

Netanyahu's speech was delivered in English and relied on his trademark use of visual aids. He claimed the material — some

55,000 pages of documents and 183 CDs of secret information an Israeli Mossad operative obtained from a Tehran facility — shows Iran cannot be trusted and encouraged President Donald Trump to withdraw from the deal.

Trump said the discovery vindicated his criticism of the deal.

Tehran, which has denied ever seeking nuclear weapons, dismissed Netanyahu's move as a "ridiculous" show but did not address the documents produced by Netanyahu.

Israeli Minister Yoav Gallant told Israel's Army Radio he suspected Trump was leaning toward nixing the deal, which would likely lead to a growing confrontation between Israel and Iran. But he said Israel was prepared and

doubted Iran would challenge Israel, given the humbling blow it has delivered.

"Anyone who saw the intelligence achievement can also understand what our military capabilities are," he said. "I assume that everyone around us will think long and hard before they try to harm Israel."

Trump has signaled he will pull out of the agreement by May 12 unless it is revised, but he faces intense pressure from European allies not to do so.

Israeli officials said the information it gathered had been shared in advance with the U.S. in an apparent attempt to influence Trump's decision.

However, Netanyahu's presentation, delivered on live TV from Israeli military headquar-

ters in Tel Aviv, did not appear to provide evidence that Iran had violated the 2015 deal, raising questions about whether it would sway international opinion ahead of Trump's decision.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman called Netanyahu's performance a "threadbare charlatanism" show. The state-run IRNA news agency on Tuesday quoted the spokesman, Bahram Ghasemi, as saying Netanyahu's speech was a part of "fruitless efforts of a bankrupt and scandalous liar."

Israeli commentators lauded what was being described as one of the Mossad's greatest intelligence achievements in unmasking the true nature of the Iranian government's intent to the world.

Still, there was disappointment over the lack of a "smoking gun" proving Iran had violated the nuclear deal.

Political opponents also bristled at Netanyahu's showmanship in presenting the find.

"I am convinced that an absolute majority of the intelligence and military officials were opposed to this presentation," said Ram Ben-Barak, a former deputy Mossad director who currently belongs to the opposition Yesh Atid party.

"What was the point, apart from national pride, broadcasting it in such a dramatic way, as if you were unveiling a new and revolutionary telephone to the world," he asked.

Defiant rallies mark May Day around world

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Workers and activists marked May Day on Tuesday with rallies to demand their government address labor issues.

International Workers' Day is a public holiday in many countries, though activities are restricted in some places, sometimes leading to confrontations.

Here is a look at some of the events around the world:

■ **Russia.** More than 100,000 people came out on the streets of Moscow to march in the traditional May Day parade.

Moscow's Federation of Trade Unions said about 120,000 people marched from the Red Square on the main streets of the Russian capital.

In St. Petersburg, Russia's second-largest city, Russians unhappy with the Kremlin's attempts to curtail internet freedom joined the official May Day demonstration.

Several hundred people braved the rainy weather and joined the column marching across St. Petersburg to protest the government's ban of popular messaging app Telegram. About 10,000 people rallied in Moscow on Monday to protest the blocking of Telegram.

■ **Turkey.** Police detained dozens of demonstrators during May Day events around Istanbul, most of them protesters who tried to march toward the city's symbolic main square in defiance of a ban.

Turkey declared Taksim Square off-limits to May Day demonstrations, citing security concerns. Police blocked roads leading to the square but allowed small groups of labor union representatives to lay wreaths and flowers at monuments there.

Still, small groups of demonstrators chanting "Long live May 1" and "Taksim cannot be off limits on May 1" tried to push their way into the square throughout the day, leading to scuffles with police.

At least 45 demonstrators were detained.

■ **Spain.** More than 70 cities across Spain held May Day marches calling for gender equality, higher salaries and pensions now that the country's economy is back on track.

The demonstration in Madrid was among the biggest, with thousands rallying behind the slogan "Time to win."



DMITRI LOVETSKY/AP

A man shouts while holding a portrait of messaging app Telegram co-founder Pavel Durov during a May Day rally in St. Petersburg, Russia, on Tuesday.



ALVARO BARRIENTOS/AP

Demonstrators shout slogans as they hold a banner reading, "Decent work for a decent life" during a May Day rally in Pamplona, northern Spain.

CCOO union official Unai Sorco said that "a social majority is emerging from the psychosis of the (global financial) crisis" in 2008 that hit Spain hard.

Pepe Alvarez, the secretary-general of UGT, the other main union in Spain, said meeting the demands of feminists, youths and pensioners are necessary to "redistribute wealth" in the country.

Spain's economy, the fourth-largest in the 19-country eurozone, has in recent years posted some of the fastest economic growth in Europe. Last year, it reached 3.1 percent.

■ **South Korea.** Thousands of labor union

members rallied in downtown Seoul for a higher minimum wage and other demands.

They chanted slogans urging the government to implement a 10,000 won, or \$9.34, minimum wage and convert all nonregular employees to regular workers with equal pay and treatment.

The rally was organized by the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions. The police estimated the crowd at 10,000 people.

The union members also demanded that the government scrap the restructuring of the shipbuilding and automobile industries and reform the huge conglomerates that dominate the South Korean economy.

8 asylum-seekers processed by US at Mexican border

By ELLIOT SPAGAT
Associated Press

TIJUANA, Mexico — U.S. Customs and Border Protection inspectors allowed some of the Central American asylum-seekers to enter the country for processing, ending a brief impasse over lack of space. But the migrants who crossed Mexico in a caravan may face a long legal path.

Organizers said about eight members of the group criticized by President Donald Trump that traveled from southern Mexico to the border city of Tijuana had entered the U.S. About 140 others were still waiting in Mexico to turn themselves in at San Diego's San Ysidro border crossing, the nation's busiest, said Alex Mensing, project organizer for Pueblo Sin Fronteras, which is leading the caravan.

"The spirits are high. There was good news for everybody," Mensing said on the Mexican side of the crossing moments after learning that some were allowed in.

U.S. attorneys who volunteered advice in Tijuana last week warned the Central Americans that parents may be separated from their children and be detained for many months while their asylum cases are pending.

Asylum-seekers are typically held up to three days at the border and turned over to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. If they pass initial screenings by asylum officers, they may be detained or released with ankle monitors while their cases wind through immigration court, which can take years.

Nearly 80 percent of asylum-seekers passed the initial screening from October through December, but few are likely to win asylum.

The denial rate for El Salvadorans seeking asylum was 79 percent from 2012 to 2017, according to asylum outcome information from Syracuse University's Transactional Records Action Clearinghouse. Hondurans were close behind, with a 78 percent denial rate, followed by Guatemalans at 75 percent.

Trump administration officials have hailed against what they call "legal loopholes" and "catch-and-release" policies that allow people seeking asylum to be freed while their cases are adjudicated. The president tweeted Monday that the caravan "shows how weak & ineffective U.S. immigration laws are."

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WORLD

Cardinal faces trial on abuse charges

By Rod McGuirk
Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Australian Cardinal George Pell, the most senior Vatican official to be charged in the Catholic Church sex abuse crisis, on Tuesday officially denied charges of sexual abuse spanning decades after his lawyers failed to sway a court to dismiss them.

Australia's highest-ranking Catholic will appear for the first time on Wednesday in the Victoria state County Court, where he has been ordered to stand trial at a date yet to be set.

Lawyers for Pell, Pope Francis' finance minister, have been fighting the allegations since before he was charged last June with sexual abuse against multiple people in Victoria from the time he was a priest in his hometown of Ballarat in the 1970s until the 1990s, when he was archbishop of Melbourne.

Magistrate Belinda Wallington on Tuesday dismissed about half the charges that had been heard in a four-week preliminary hearing in Melbourne but decided the prosecution's case was strong enough for the remainder to warrant a trial by jury. The details of the allegations and the number of charges have not been made public.

When she asked Pell how he pleaded, the cardinal said in a firm voice, "Not guilty." Wallington gave Pell, 76, permission not to stand, as is customary.

When the magistrate left the room at the end of the hearing, many people in the packed public gallery broke into applause.

Vatican spokesman Greg Burke issued a statement saying, "The Holy See has taken note of the decision issued by judicial authori-



A demonstrator sits beside a placard carrying the image of Australian Cardinal George Pell outside the Melbourne Magistrate Court on Tuesday.



Pell

ties in Australia regarding His Eminence Cardinal George Pell. Last year, the Holy Father granted Pell a leave of absence so he could defend himself from the accusations. The leave of absence is still in place."

Pell's plea marked the only words he spoke in public during the hearing. Wearing a cleric's collar, white shirt and dark suit, he was silent as he entered and left the downtown

courthouse with his lawyer, Robert Richter. More than 40 police officers maintained order on the crowded sidewalk outside.

The cardinal's legal team found some solace in the outcome, with Richter saying that "the most vile of the allegations" had been dismissed.

Anne Barrett Doyle, of BishopAccountability.org, a Massachusetts-based online abuse resource, described the magistrate's decision to make Pell stand trial as "a turning point in the global abuse crisis in the Catholic Church."

"Whatever its outcome, the judge's decision marks the victory of accountability over impunity and of the rule of secular law

over the Vatican's failed strategy of cover-up," she said.

Pell's lawyers had argued that all of the accusations were untrue, could not be proved and should be dismissed.

Wallington dismissed one charge because the alleged victim was an "unsatisfactory witness" during the first two weeks of the preliminary hearing, when complainants testified via a video link from a remote location to a courtroom closed to the public and media.

"It is difficult to see how a jury could convict on the evidence of a man who has said on his affirmation that he cannot recall what he said a minute ago," Wallington said.

Building collapse, fire kill at least 1 in Brazil

SAO PAULO — An abandoned high-rise building occupied by squatters in downtown Sao Paulo caught fire and collapsed Tuesday, sending chunks of fiery debris crashing into neighboring buildings and surrounding streets.

Firefighters said at least one person had been killed in the collapse and that there could be more.

The building, a former headquarters of the federal police, caught fire about 1:30 a.m. local time. Firefighters set up a perimeter and worked to evacuate people.

A few hours later, as flames engulfed the building of at least 20 stories, it collapsed.

Scotland sets minimum price for bargain booze

LONDON — Bargain booze has become a little more expensive in Scotland, which says it is the first country in the world to introduce minimum unit pricing for alcohol.

Beginning Tuesday, retailers were required to charge at least 68 cents per unit, amounting to about 96 cents for a bottle of beer or \$6.83 for a bottle of wine.

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon praised Scotland for being "bold enough and brave enough" to take the step.

One of the evidence says that minimum unit pricing will reduce deaths from alcohol-related illnesses, reduce hospital admissions and generally reduce the damage that alcohol misuse does to our society," she said.

CEO sings 'We're in the Money' after takeover

LONDON — The CEO of British supermarket chain Sainsbury's has apologized after being caught on camera singing "We're in the Money" following the takeover of Walmart's unit Asda.

Mike Coupe was preparing for an ITV interview to discuss the \$10 billion deal when caught on microphone singing a song from the musical "42nd Street."

Coupe sang, "We're in the money, the sky is sunny, let's lend it, spend it, send it rolling along." He later described it as "an unguarded moment" before settling down to speak.

He said it was "an unfortunate choice of song from the musical ... I saw last year, and I apologize if I have offended anyone."

Swiss police say 6 dead after snowstorm

GENEVA — Swiss police said Tuesday six people have died after an unexpected snowstorm trapped a group of Alpine hikers in southwestern Switzerland. The victims were identified as five Italians and a Bulgarian woman.

The regional Valais police department said another person remains in critical condition following the sudden blast of snow and high winds in the Pigne d'Arolla region.

The storm left a total of 14 hikers spending the night from Sunday to Monday out in the cold with no shelter.

From The Associated Press

US, Britain launch study of most dangerous glacier

By Chris Mooney
The Washington Post

The largest U.S.-British Antarctic mission in seven decades officially launched at an event in Cambridge, England, on Monday, as the two countries pooled dollars and scientific resources for missions to West Antarctica's Thwaites glacier — a Florida-size ice body that scientists fear could flood the world's coastlines in our lifetimes.

"For global sea-level change in the next century, this Thwaites glacier is almost the entire story," said David Holland, a geoscientist at New York University, who will pair with British Antarctic Survey researcher Keith Nicholls to lead one of the six scientific field missions.

Thwaites is wide and deep and flows out of the heart of West Antarctica, a marine ice sheet that could contribute about 10 feet of global sea-level rise. Thwaites is losing ice rapidly, with its 50 billion tons per year currently driving 4 percent of global sea-level rise, and sits perched in 2,600-

foot-deep waters atop a seafloor "bump" that scientists fear is the last thing holding it in place.

Past the bump, the ocean gets deeper still, and if Thwaites retreats down that hill, there could be no stopping it. Its contribution to sea-level rise could increase dramatically, bumping up the current global rate of about 0.12 of an inch per year.

"The thinking is that if it goes inland, there are no bumps to hold it, and it will go faster and faster and retreat effectively to the South Pole," Holland said.

Thwaites is a key part of the reason that recent computer modeling studies have predicted that the Antarctic could double the previously projected rate of sea-level rise during this century. But it is located in an extremely remote area, and the critical region that will determine how fast the glacier retreats — the "grounding line" where ocean, ice and bedrock meet at 2,600-foot depths — remains little studied.

It's among the most difficult places on Earth for humans to explore.



JAMES YUNGER/Courtesy of NASA

Blowing snow comes off the calving front of the Thwaites Ice Shelf, as seen from IceBridge DC-8 in October 2012.

The six field missions that the U.S. National Science Foundation and the British Natural Environment Research Council will deploy to Thwaites in the next several years will be backed by two computer modeling projects to process data from those missions and calculate what it means for the world's coastlines.

One celebrity will be participating: Boaty McBoatface, an underwater research vehicle whose

name stems from an online vote in Britain.

The cost of the project is about \$25 million for the research and possibly \$25 million more for logistical support, including transporting scientists to the remote Thwaites via planes, icebreakers, tractors, helicopters and other vehicles, and supporting them in the harsh environment. About 100 scientists are involved in the project in various capacities.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Graduation ceremony crashed by pelicans

CA MALIBU — A pair of pelicans crashed a graduation ceremony at Pepperdine University in the California beachfront community of Malibu over the weekend.

The long-beaked birds flew in Saturday as the class of 2018 was receiving diplomas outdoors on a lawn overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

Video broadcast by KABC-TV shows one of the big birds landed among seated observers, who tossed it back into the air only to have it land on a red carpet at the center of the ceremony.

The pelican resisted efforts by several men to get it to move along. It finally waddled away.

Police arrest man after 40-mile highway chase

CT GUILFORD — Connecticut State Police arrested an 18-year-old man they say led officers on a 40-mile, high-speed pursuit with three juveniles in his stolen car.

Police said the chase started about 3 a.m. Monday in Westport.

The car went north on Interstate 95 and, at one point, the occupants abandoned the vehicle and got into another car. The switch was caught by highway surveillance cameras, and police eventually stopped the second car on the highway in Guilford by using tire-deflation devices.

The driver, Jordan Butler, of Waterbury, was arrested on several charges, including reckless driving. The three juvenile occupants of the vehicle were released to the custody of their parents.

Police say man ate burrito after stabbing

NM GALLUP — A New Mexico man is facing charges after deputies say he stabbed another man during an alcohol-fueled fight, then took a "burrito break."

The Gallup Independent reported Lucas Martinez, of Cochiti Pueblo, was arrested in Gallup following the violent altercation.

A McKinley County Sheriff's Office report says deputy Brandon Salazar found Vernon Tso, 37, with stab wounds on his hand. When Salazar asked Tso who stabbed him, the report says the victim pointed to the kitchen table, where Martinez calmly was eating a burrito.

Salazar said Martinez became confrontational when he saw the deputy. He had to be restrained, the report says. Martinez is facing a charge of aggravated battery with a deadly weapon.

Facility gets chance to raise baby octopuses

AK KENAI — Alaska's SeaLife Center is getting its third shot at raising thousands of octopus hatchlings, hoping at least one of the translucent mollusks will grow into its 50-pound, color-changing form.

The Peninsula Clarion report-

THE CENSUS

\$110K

The amount of restitution paid by an Iowa mobile home park owner accused of bypassing water meters to save thousands of dollars. Michael Frederick, of Dubuque, paid the city before being sentenced to two years of probation. Frederick also was given a suspended jail sentence of 180 days. Officials estimate more than 21.5 million gallons of water had been taken.



ed that such a task has been completed just once before — by the Seattle Aquarium in the 1980s. The SeaLife Center had giant Pacific octopus hatchlings twice before, in 2005 and 2013.

This time, the center's octopus Gilligan has raised about 100 eggs into hatchlings, with more to come. The center says giant Pacific octopuses usually lay a clutch of between 20,000 and 80,000 eggs, from which about 1 percent of the young survive in the wild. Success rates are even lower in captivity.

Police say man stole car with baby inside

FL ST. PETERSBURG — Police said a man who stole a car with a baby inside was caught driving another stolen car. A St. Petersburg police Facebook post says Rashad Webb, 19, is accused of stealing the vehicle with the child inside on April 23.

Webb told police he realized the baby was inside the car and dropped him off in a parking lot, where the child was found. News

outlets reported the 8-month-old was found by a news crew working on an unrelated story.

Officers spotted Webb early Thursday and he drove off at a high rate of speed but eventually stopped and surrendered, police said. He was charged with child abuse and other charges.

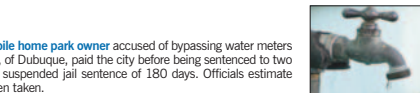
Salisbury Zoo welcomes its first baby wallaby

MD SALISBURY — The Salisbury Zoo has announced the arrival of its first baby wallaby.

Wallabies are a close cousin to the kangaroo found in Australia and surrounding islands. They're also known as joeys.

Zookeepers had noticed changes with one of the zoo's female Bennett's wallabies. Her pouch appeared to be getting larger and at times movement was detected. Eventually, a small head peeked out.

In April, the Joey began making short appearances outside its mother's pouch. As it grows, it will spend more time outside.



Conflict remembered

Above: People gather Monday outside City Hall in Philadelphia to mark the anniversary of the fall of Saigon and the end of the Vietnam War.

Left: Republic of Vietnam military veteran Duong Nguyen takes part in the remembrance.

PHOTOS BY MATT ROURKE/AP

Watermelon spill causes deadly crash

PA PHILADELPHIA — Watermelons that spilled from an overturned tractor-trailer on an interstate off-ramp in Philadelphia on Saturday hit a car on the road below, causing a deadly crash.

Police said the truck flipped as it exited the northbound lanes of Interstate 95.

The watermelons spilled onto southbound lanes of I-95, hitting a car and causing the driver to lose control. A passenger in that car, Thanh Tam Nguyen, 61, of Glenolden, was killed in the crash. The driver was hospitalized.

Dog in shelter for 420 days finds home

NV LAS VEGAS — A dog has found a permanent home after spending nearly 14 months at a Las Vegas animal shelter.

KLAS-TV reported a family adopted 6-year-old Mona after

visiting the Animal Foundation on Saturday.

Mona, who was found in 2012 as a stray and had been back to the shelter a couple of times since then, had been at the shelter for 420 days.

Woman sentenced for food stamps fraud

MA WORCESTER — A Massachusetts businesswoman has been sentenced to eight months in prison for defrauding the federal government of nearly \$300,000 in a cash-for-food stamps scheme.

Esther Acquaye, who owned Esther's Fashion Paradise in Worcester, was also sentenced to three years of probation and ordered to pay about \$285,000 in restitution.

Federal prosecutors say Acquaye, 49, paid some customers 50 cents for every Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program dollar and received the full value of the benefits from the government.

From wire reports

FACES

SECRET WEAPON of comedy

Awkwafina might just steal the show in 'Ocean's 8,' 'Crazy Rich Asians'

By JEN YAMATO
Los Angeles Times

Awkafina (aka Nora Lum) is everywhere these days. This summer, the Queens native lights up the multiplex with a slot on Sandra Bullock's squad of all-female thieves in heist sequel "Ocean's 8" (June 8) followed by a breakout turn in the highly anticipated literary adaptation "Crazy Rich Asians" (Aug. 17). "I've been having this dream where I wake up from the dream that is my actual life," said Awkwafina. "I have that dream maybe three times a week where I wake up and I'm just back in the vegan bodega or at the book company. I can't believe that it's real, and I don't think I ever will."

Happily, she no longer has to hustle those day jobs now that Hollywood has taken notice.

Awkwafina, 29, brings the same swagger to the screen that made her rap career explode in 2012 when her deadpan feminist single "My Vag" announced the arrival of a fierce new talent happy to explode stereotypes and taboos.

Leaning into acting, she scored a small role in "Neighbors 2," but landing a coveted spot in the all-female "Ocean's 8" lineup gave her Hollywood career a next-level bump.

"Constance is a person I've never seen on-screen before, ever," Awkwafina said of the "Oceans" role director Gary Ross and co-writer Olivia Milch tailored to her. "Asian" is not part of

her character — she just is. She's a kind of New Yorker, this modernized, outer-borough, fast-talking three-card-monte character, but she's real."

In "Crazy Rich Asians," director Jon M. Chu's slick adaptation of Ken Kwan's bestseller of the same name, Awkwafina brings the Singaporean new-money character of Peik Lin to life as a brash, blond-bewigged, human adrenaline shot draped in designer silk pajamas.

Chu cast Awkwafina and tweaked the character with inspiration from Asian fashion bloggers and Instagram celebrities. On set, Awkwafina's knack for improvisation made Peik Lin pop even more.

"She's so creative," Chu raved. "You can write a line, but you really don't know how she'll deliver it until she does it. We let her riff a lot."

Comedy and improvisation have always come easy to Awkwafina. And with a new EP on the horizon — one not mixed in her bedroom, like 2014's "Yellow Ranger" — fans will soon see Awkwafina return to her rap roots.

"The hustle will never end for me, and I'll want to see what's coming next," she said. "I'm really grateful for what's happened. I never thought that it would."

Awkwafina (aka Nora Lum), shown in 2016, is getting plenty of acting gigs these days, but has a hard time believing her good fortune.

TNS



'Mean Girls,' 'SpongeBob' top Tony nods

Associated Press

Tina Fey's musical "Mean Girls" and "SpongeBob SquarePants: The Musical" lead the Tony Award nominations with dozen nods each.

A British revival of "Angels in America," Tony Kushner's monumental, two-part drama about AIDS, life and love during the 1980s, grabbed 11 nominations — the most for any play — 25 years after it first appeared on Broadway. The shimmering, grown-up musical "The Band's Visit" also earned 11 nods.

J.K. Rowling's "Harry Potter" franchise extended its magical touch to Broadway. Its two-part stage play got 10 nominations, as did a revival of "My Fair Lady."

Best new musical category is filled by "The Band's Visit," "Frozen," "Mean Girls" and "SpongeBob SquarePants: The Musical."

"Harry Potter and the Cursed Child" will face "The Children," "Farnelli and The King," "Junk" and "Latin History for Morons" for best new play.

Best male acting nominations for a play include Denzel Washington, starring in a revival of Eugene O'Neill's epic "The Iceman Cometh." His competition is Andrew Garfield in "Angels in America," Tom Hollander of "Travels with My Sister," Jamie Parker of "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child" and Mark Rylance in "Farnelli and The King."

Ami Schumer, who made her Broadway debut in Steve Martin's comedy "Meteor Shower," won a nomination for best actress in a play. Others in the category include Glenda Jackson from "Edward Albee's Three Tall Women," Condola Rashad in "Saint Joan" and Lauren Ridloff in "Children of a Lesser God."

Judd sues Weinstein, says she wants film producer held accountable

Associated Press

Ashley Judd is suing Harvey Weinstein and said Tuesday she wants the former movie mogul to be held accountable for "illegal conduct" that caused her to lose money, status, prestige and power.

Judd was in the first group of women who came forward last fall about Weinstein's alleged sexual misconduct, putting her at the forefront of the #MeToo movement. She spoke on ABC's "Good Morning America" on Tuesday, one day after filing a lawsuit in Los Angeles County Superior Court.

Judd says Weinstein hurt her acting career in retaliation for her rejecting his sexual advances.

Her lawsuit goes beyond many sexual harassment suits by invoking unfair competition laws against fraudulent business practices in an attempt to "shine a light on the broader economic damages caused when individuals in positions of authority attempt to punish those who have resisted their improper advances," said Judd's attorney Theodore J. Boutrous Jr.

Judd, 50, said that her ultimate goal is to encourage "safe and legal workplaces."

She said it feels wonderful to take a stand on behalf of her "younger self."

"The most basic investigation of the facts will reveal that Mr. Weinstein neither defamed Ms. Judd nor ever interfered with Ms. Judd's career, and instead not only championed her work but also repeatedly approved her casting," Weinstein's representative said in a statement. "... We look forward to a vigorous defense of these claims."

Rogen says he'll continue to work with Franco

Time is far from up on Seth Rogen and James Franco's friendship.

Rogen broke his silence on the allegations of sexual misconduct that have been dogging Franco since January, and said the claims have no effect on the pair's working relationship.

"The truth is that my perspective on this is the least relevant perspective. I'm friends with these people and I'm a dude," Rogen told Vulture. "All that combined makes me the last person who should be talking about this."

The "Knocked Up" star then confirmed

that the claims would not making him any less willing to work with his longtime friend.

Rogen, 36, and Franco are frequent collaborators, and have appeared together in films like "This Is the End," "Pineapple Express" and "The Interview."

New song by Chris Cornell on collection of Cash's writings

It's inevitable that a new recording by Chris Cornell would take on an added poignancy following his suicide last year. Yet there's an extra chill that comes in listening to his contribution to a recently released collection of Johnny Cash's writings set to music.

Cornell took on a poem by Cash, who died in 2003, called "You Never Knew My Mind." At one point the former Soundgarden leader sings, "you did not see me well enough to recognize the signs."

He was among several musicians invited by Cash's son to make songs out of writings that the late country music star had left behind. "Forever Words" features the likes of Kacey Musgraves, Alison Krauss, Elvis Costello and John Mellencamp.

Other news

■ One of three women who escaped a Cleveland house after being held for a decade has written a new book about recovering from her ordeal. Michelle Knight was kidnapped in 2002 by Ariel Castro and kept in captivity for nearly 11 years. Knight's new book, "Life After Darkness," comes out this week.

■ Bonnie Raitt has pulled out of the first leg of her U.S. tour with James Taylor due to an unspecified "medical situation" that requires surgery. Raitt, 68, on Monday posted a statement on her Facebook page apologizing to fans and saying the medical issue arose following her annual physical. She says the prognosis is "good" and a full recovery is expected. The 68-year-old Grammy winner says she expects to rejoin Taylor for his tour's second leg in June and a European tour in July.

■ An actor on the television show "Empire" has been acquitted of domestic battery in Chicago. Morocco Morari took the stand during a two-day trial that ended with his acquittal April 27. Morari played FBI Agent Tariq Cousins on the TV show. The character was killed off last season.

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BUSINESS/WEATHER

Prepare for the most expensive driving in years

BY ALEX VEIGA
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Get ready for a little bit more pain at the gas pump this summer.

Crude oil prices are at the highest level in more than three years and are expected to keep climbing, pushing up gasoline prices along the way.

The U.S. daily national average for regular gasoline is now \$2.81 per gallon. That's up from about \$2.38 per gallon a year ago, according to Oil Price Information Service. Across the U.S., 16 percent of gas stations are charging more than \$3 per gallon, according to AAA.

"This will be the most expensive driving season since 2014," said Tom Kloza, global head of energy analysis for Oil Price Information Service.

The price of U.S. crude oil has been on a mostly steady incline since last June, last week hitting \$68.64, the highest since December 2014. Benchmark U.S. crude closed Monday at \$68.57.

Oil prices near \$70 shouldn't put the brakes on economic growth. While they're boosting costs for some sectors of the economy, the energy sector and related industries have more money to spend on equipment and workers.

But higher oil prices are certainly an inconvenience for drivers, especially those with lower incomes.

"The good news is, both at the global level and the U.S. level, this is occurring at a time when growth is fairly robust," said Nari-man Behravesch, chief economist at IHS Markit. "But consumers as a whole will be hurt, mostly because gasoline prices are going up."

Kevin Lanke, a motion picture lighting technician in Redondo Beach, Calif., said he's now paying about \$3.39 per gallon to fill up the 25-gallon tank in his 2000 Land Cruiser SUV. That's about 20 cents more per gallon than a couple of months ago.

"I would fill up my car and it would be \$52 or \$53," said Lanke, 51. "Now it's in the mid \$60s for the same amount of gas."

Several factors have helped drive oil prices higher. A wave of global economic growth has driven up demand for oil. At the same time, production cutbacks initiated by OPEC last year have helped whittle down oil supplies.

In the U.S., oil supplies were running 1.1 million barrels lower at the start of this summer's driving season, which runs from April through September, than a year ago, according to the U.S. Energy

Information Administration.

That has amplified the typical increase in gas prices seen this time of year. Pump prices normally rise as demand increases from families going on vacation and taking to the highways on road trips. Already, U.S. consumer demand for gasoline hit a record high for April, according to the EIA.

Drivers in Western states such as California, Oregon, Washington and Nevada, as well as Alaska and Hawaii, are paying the most at the pump, according to AAA. The average retail price in those states ranges from \$3.19 to \$3.61 per gallon.

Average retail gasoline prices are lowest in a swath of states in the South and Southeast, including Louisiana and Alabama. These two states have the cheapest gas in the country at \$2.54 and

\$2.56 per gallon, respectively, according to AAA.

Still, prices remain well off from 2008, when crude oil prices jumped above \$130 per barrel and average retail gas prices surged to an all-time high of \$4.11 per gallon.

For all of 2018, EIA expects that the national retail price for all grades of gasoline will average \$2.76 a gallon. That would translate into an additional \$190 spent on fuel by the average U.S. household this year compared with last year, the agency said.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (May 2)	\$1.2425
Dollar buys (May 2)	€0.8048
British pound (May 2)	\$1.41
Japanese yen (May 2)	107.00
South Korean won (May 2)	1,040.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3775
British pound	\$1.3628
Canada (Dollar)	1.2876
China (Yuan)	6.3520
Denmark (Krone)	5.2033
Egypt (Pound)	17.6788
Euro	\$1.2012/0.8325
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8490
Hungary (Forint)	251.44
Israel (Shekel)	3.6106
Japan (Yen)	109.71
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3016
Norway (Krone)	8.0815
Philippines (Peso)	51.98
Poland (Zloty)	3.56
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7724
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3329
South Korea (Won)	1,076.95
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9949
Thailand (Baht)	31.65
Turkey (Lira)	4.9122
(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issue. For Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, for nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)	

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.75
Discount rate	2.25
Federals funds market rate	69
3-month bill	1.84
30-year bond	3.12

CDC chief asks for, will get cut to his record pay

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The new head of the U.S. public health agency has asked for — and will receive — a cut to his record-setting pay, federal officials said Monday.

Dr. Robert Redfield Jr.'s new salary was not revealed.

The 66-year-old HIV researcher, who was picked in March to head the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, had been set to earn \$375,000 a year.

That sum was at least \$150,000 more than any previous CDC director had received. It also was well above the compensation of other top federal health officials — including Redfield's boss, Secretary Alex Azar of the U.S. De-

partment of Health and Human Services.

After The Associated Press reported last week that Redfield was making almost twice as much as his predecessor, a U.S. senator opposed to his appointment wrote a letter to Azar asking why he was earning so much.

On Monday, HHS officials said Redfield asked for a pay reduction because the topic had become a distraction. They said his compensation will be adjusted accordingly but did not answer questions about what the new sum is or when it will be announced.

A top HIV researcher, Redfield had no experience working in public health or managing a pub-

lic health agency.

By private industry standards, Redfield's CDC salary was modest for someone with his resume, and it was a significant pay cut from what he was making in his previous job at the University of Maryland.

But \$375,000 was exceptionally high for the field of government public health, and it was high compared with the salaries of other high-level federal officials.

Redfield is being paid under a salary program called Title 42, which was established to attract health scientists with rare and critical skills to government work.

Azar, the head of the National

Institutes of Health and the head of the Food and Drug Administration aren't paid under Title 42 and make less than Redfield.

MARKET WATCH

April 30, 2018	
Dow Jones Industrials	-148.04
	24,163.15
Nasdaq composite	-53.53
	7,066.27
Standard & Poor's 500	-21.86
	2,648.05
Russell 2000	-14.36
	1,541.88

WEATHER OUTLOOK



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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OPINION

Why isn't violence against women a red flag?

By NANCY KAFFER

Detroit Free Press

Men who hurt women, or talk about wanting to hurt women, are more likely to hurt people. Because women are, you know, people.

This does not seem like an extreme or controversial statement to make. Yet the connection between hurting women and a propensity for violence (I mean, it's redundant) continues to be discussed in tentative tones, as something we should maybe think about, rather than a super bright red flag.

A man cold-cocks the guy in the cube next to him, and it's clearly assault. A man cold-cocks his wife, and wellllll, there's two sides to every story, and marriage gets messy, and maybe she's lying, because women, amiright, or maybe she provoked him — a whole litany of excuses place violence toward women in some not-quite-as-serious category.

Even as news emerges again and again that the thing perpetrators of mass murder have in common is not race, or religion, or ethnicity, but a history of violence against women.

Even after the latest attack by a man apparently motivated by hatred of women, a van attack in Toronto last month that left 10 dead.

For the first time ever in six years as a columnist and 18 as a journalist, I feel like I have to inform readers if you've ever been the victim of sexual assault, you might like to stop reading here, because some of these guys are really messed-up.

Alleged killer Alex Missaniss posted to social media shortly before the attack, identifying as an "incel" (that's short for "involuntary celibate," a construction that doesn't even make sense) and expressing

Spend 10 minutes reading up on incels and there's not much to be confused about.

admiration for fellow incel Elliot Rodger, who killed six people four years ago in Santa Barbara, Calif. Rodger left behind a manifesto detailing his anger that male supremacy has waned, and that women had refused to provide him with the sex to which he felt he was entitled.

Incels sit at one extreme end of "the manosphere," a chunk of the internet occupied by men ranging from basically normal guys who feel divorce and custody laws unfairly favor women to "Red Pill" men who aspire to be "alpha" males and who believe government, video games and apparently everything are controlled by a secret cabal of feminists. These red-pill men — a reference drawn from the movie "The Matrix" — embrace a lot of pseudo-science babble about intrinsic differences between men and women (whom they believe are inferior both emotionally and intellectually to men) and encourage men to become more dominant in interactions with women. Incels blame women for their lack of sexual success; they believe, as the Southern Poverty Law Center notes, that sex is a basic human right for men, and that it's up to women to provide it, regardless of their willingness to do so.

These groups are largely connected by a belief in male supremacy, and that the world has changed from a place where men were literally and figuratively on top, entitled to women, sex and the resources they believe attract women and sex, to a world in which conniving feminists seek to emasculate men and overturn male supremacy. And

really, it's white male supremacy they're pining for; that bygone era in which white men were firmly in charge, and there's some solid evidence that sexism is an effective all-right recruiting tool.

Earlier this year, the Southern Poverty Law Center added male supremacy to the hate ideologies it tracks, "because of the way these groups consistently denigrate and dehumanize women, often including advocating physical and sexual violence against them."

Spend 10 minutes reading up on incels and there's not much to be confused about. These men disdain men and women who have normal sexual and romantic relationships ("normies," or "Chads" and "Stacy's"); some fantasize about raping women, or burning a woman's face with acid, or raping us and then burning our faces with acid, a move one incel poster says is particularly on point because the woman has to know that the last person who saw her unmarred was a rapist. All of which should make me feel sick, but is so far removed from anything remotely resembling normal humanity that I can scarcely imagine it.

Some incels were jubilant at the Toronto attack, proclaiming that "normies" (that's almost all of us) will have to live in constant fear (that's terrorism, folks).

It's tempting to write these guys off as pissant basement-dwellers who'd never back those words with action, but at this point they've got a body count, and eye-rolling just isn't enough.

We've started to recognize, at least, that what a lot of mass murderers have in common is that they've been violent toward women. But what are we going to do about it?

Nancy Kaffer is a political columnist and member of the editorial board at the Detroit Free Press.

Supporters back Mo. governor as they do Trump

By MELINDA HENNEBERGER

The Kansas City (Mo.) Star

For weeks, a lot of us have been asking what Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens thinks he's doing, hanging on to his job at such a high cost to his family, his state and his party. With so many fellow Republicans calling on him to resign or be impeached, especially since the bipartisan Missouri House committee investigating the governor said they believe the woman who accused him under oath of coercing and slapping her, what could he be hoping to gain from holding all of Missouri hostage?

I did not go to the Vernon County GOP Lincoln Days Banquet in Nevada on Friday night looking for an answer to that question, but I found it there, anyway.

Because the answer I kept getting to the question I'd walked in with, about whether Republican Attorney General Josh Hawley's criticism of Greitens had in any way changed their view of Hawley as a U.S. Senate candidate, was 1) Now who is Josh Hawley again? And 2) We love that Eric Greitens, though.

They'd vote for him again tomorrow and the day after that, too, if possible. Because they don't think he's done anything wrong. Or because even if he did, it's nothing Bill Clinton didn't do. And most of all, because in his current predicament, Greitens reminds them more than ever of President Donald Trump.

Out here, where more than of the town was burned to the ground by Union troops in May of 1863 and Trump took 6,333 to Hill-

ary Clinton's 1,707 votes in 2016, it's possible to imagine that Greitens, a former Navy SEAL, isn't going anywhere. More than half of Missouri Republicans still support the governor, for now, so if you're the kind of guy who likes drama and is not exactly risk averse, maybe you take those odds.

Of the two dozen Republicans I asked about Hawley, only retired real estate broker Jack Smotherman said the attorney general was probably right to ask the governor to resign "because if he's going down, you don't want to go with him."

Two others said they were agnostic on his response, and a third, April Mosher, who is married to the local sheriff, said she'll wait and see.

Everyone else, though, answered by defending Greitens. "I don't approve of what they're saying he did, but it's nothing the Democrats haven't done," reasons Robert Palmer, a retired carpenter who these days builds houses for Habitat for Humanity with other members of his church. His wife, Connie Palmer, quickly changes the subject to Bill and Hillary Clinton. "Somebody needs to find some dirt on her," she says of the latter, whose popularity here is best summed up by the MAGA-style hats on sale in multiple colors: Hillary for Prison, they say.

Want to see Greitens stay in there," said Mike Bucher, the Vernon County clerk, who is up for re-election. "He admit-

ted his wrongdoing, so why do they keep going after him? He's still our governor, just like our president is still our president."

No one mentioned that Greitens is not up on criminal charges for having an affair. But that Greitens has been accused of sexual misconduct almost seemed like a selling point, in that it's just one more thing he has in common with Donald Trump.

"Yeah, it's wrong, but it's in the past," said Justin Schultz, a personable young truck driver in a "Courtland Sykes for Senate" T-shirt whose pickup parked out in front at the county fairgrounds has 4-TRUMP vanity plates. "It's kind of like everything with President Trump. The media is attacking him for things from 15 years ago," Schultz said.

Governor Greitens is on the same program as President Trump. Whereas Hawley, Schultz thinks, is not only "backstabbing our governor," but is not in the Trump mode at all.

Jerry Haggard also likes Greitens to the president. "Greitens is great," he said. "It's like Trump. I know he's probably had some indiscretions, and he's not very well liked in Jefferson City, but he's being railroaded. He's eliminating programs so we leave the guy alone. We all have faults."

As for Hawley, Haggard says the Democratic incumbent, Sen. Claire McCaskill, who cannily boosted her weak 2012 opponent, Todd Akin, during his primary race, "might be funding him, too, for all I know." But Hawley's take on the governor doesn't bother him much since "I'd vote for a totem pole over her."

Melinda Henneberger is a Kansas City Star columnist.

OPINION

US freeze on aid heats up the Gaza crisis

BY NOURA ERAKAT
Special to the Los Angeles Times

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency — better known as UNRWA — was created after 750,000 Palestinians fled their homes during the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict. Refugees in the Gaza Strip will mark the 70th anniversary of that exodus on May 15, the culmination of the symbolic “Great Return March” that has brought thousands of protesters to the territory’s border with Israel this spring, where they have consistently met excessive, lethal force from the Israeli army.

President Donald Trump insists he can broker a deal to end the hostilities for good, but early this year his administration froze 83 percent of America’s funding for UNRWA, a move that could cripple the agency, intensify the situation along the Gaza border and undermine the chance for a lasting peace.

The U.N. resolution that created UNRWA charged the agency with providing relief to “prevent distress” among Palestinian refugees and furthering “conditions of peace and stability.” With contributions from the U.N. member nations, including the United States — UNRWA’s most loyal and generous supporter — the agency has supplied essential food, water, health care and education to roughly 5 million people in Gaza, the West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.

Since 2007, close to 2 million Palestinians have been effectively trapped in the Gaza Strip. Israel has sealed it off, and the border with Egypt opens rarely. The effects have been catastrophic. Unemployment there is greater than 41 percent, and the number of Palestinians in Gaza relying on UNRWA for food has surged from fewer than 80,000 in 2000 to almost 1 million today.

tion today.

In January, the U.S. abruptly announced that it would withhold more than half of a \$125 million installment on its 2018 funding for UNRWA. Annually, the U.S. has contributed about \$365 million to the agency, but the Trump administration has now made it clear that UNRWA will not receive humanitarian aid without political conditions attached. U.S. representatives portrayed the freeze as a means of encouraging other donors to step forward, but sources indicate that the Trump administration is predicating UNRWA’s funding on Palestinian officials’ willingness to re-enter peace talks, despite conditions that make key negotiation issues, such as the status of Jerusalem, a foregone conclusion.

Conditioning aid on political action turns humanitarian assistance on its head. Since its inception, UNRWA has strived to remain impartial amid infighting, violence and turmoil, concentrating on helping Palestinians in need, regardless of their politics.

In Gaza, for example, residents have been thrust into an internal struggle since 2007, when Hamas consolidated its control of the territory. In retaliation, the Fatah-dominated Palestinian Authority has repeatedly reduced the supply of electricity to Gaza, causing water treatment facilities to shut down, slowing the flow of potable water to a drip and forcing raw sewage to back up into Gaza’s streets.

UNRWA has trucked in emergency supplies of clean, drinkable water to more than 250 Gaza schools, where the agency educates almost a quarter of a million children. When foul water caused outbreaks of infection and diarrhea among refugees, UNRWA’s health clinics provided emergency medical care and organized sanitation efforts at the agency’s schools and camps.



ABEL HANA/AP

Palestinian protesters fall down from tear gas fired by Israeli troops after they burned tires near the fence during a protest at the Gaza Strip’s border with Israel on Friday.

Last year, more than 19,000 individuals benefited from short-term employment through UNRWA’s job-creation program in Gaza. In addition, to manage its operations, the agency employs more than 14,000 Gazans. All told, last year UNRWA employed 8.5 percent of the entire Gazan labor force.

UNRWA relies on the generosity of international donors. The U.S. contribution typically makes up about 30 percent of the agency’s budget. Without consistent U.S. funding, conditions in Gaza could easily slip from barely adequate to intolerable.

UNRWA has proved a crucial source of stability through 70 years of political turmoil for Palestinians, largely because it

has concentrated on administering relief based entirely on need. It has steadfastly held off one looming humanitarian catastrophe after another in Gaza and throughout the Palestinian diaspora, keeping alive the hope that a political solution is within reach.

Cutting UNRWA’s funding undermines efforts to sustain that hope and to create the conditions that ensure the rights of all parties in the conflict. If the United States wants to be part of paving a path toward Middle East peace, it should restore its contribution to the agency and re-establish itself as a global humanitarian leader.

Noura Erakat is a human rights attorney and assistant professor at George Mason University.

The credit Trump deserves for the Korea negotiations

BY DANIEL W. DREZNER
Special to The Washington Post

According to many national security observers, foreign dignitaries and the president himself, Donald Trump deserves a lot of credit for the seemingly successful Korea summit in Panmunjom late last week. Former acting CIA Director Michael Morell told CBS News: “I think the president deserves credit for getting us this far. No president has put as much pressure on North Korea as Donald Trump has, and that’s a good thing.” CNN’s Stephen Collinson nicely captures the conventional wisdom on this subject:

“Any way you cut it, President Donald Trump is entitled to significant credit for Friday’s historic opening between the two Koreas....

“Clearly, credit goes to President Trump,” South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha told CNN’s Christine Amanpour in Seoul. “He’s been determined to come to grips with this from Day 1.”

“[Secretary of State Mike] Pompeo said in Brussels that ‘we would not be where we are today without President Trump’s maximum pressure campaign.’”

South Korean President Moon Jae-in suggests that Trump should win the Nobel Peace Prize. Even some of Trump’s harshest critics are acknowledging his role, with Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., for example,

Trump’s attitude makes it conceivable to North Korea that the dream bargain can be struck — one that removes the United States from Northeast Asia.

tweeting on April 29: “I think it’s more than fair to say that the combination of the president’s unpredictability and, indeed, his bellicosity had something to do with the North Koreans deciding to come to the table.”

All of this credit-claiming is based on the notion that Trump’s bellicosity and “maximum pressure” campaign pushed North Korea to the bargaining table. There is some surface plausibility to that argument. Coercive Bargaining 101 suggests that if Trump delivered credible threats and amped up the potency of sanctions, then he deserves credit for Kim Jong Un’s decision to come to the bargaining table.

But even if the “maximum pressure” campaign did increase the cost of sanctions to Pyongyang, this kind of analysis is ridiculously one-sided. It overlooks the fact that Kim’s bargaining position has also strengthened considerably over the past year. North Korea has made great strides in both its nuclear and ballistic missile technology. It also accidentally destroyed the mountain where it conducted its missile tests. Given these facts — and, let’s be fair, the ratcheting up of global pressure

— Kim’s pivoting to negotiations is unsurprising. I have yet to read a compelling causal argument for Kim’s friendliness that cannot be explained away by North Korean military strength rather than economic vulnerability. The latter likely played a factor, but the former seems way more important.

I agree Trump deserves some credit for the nascent signs of Korean comity, but not because of the “maximum pressure” campaign. Rather, Trump has done two other things that have helped get us to where we are today. The first is that he has the flexibility of mind and largeness of ego to want to meet with Kim. The meeting alone confers great legitimacy on the North Korean leader, but Trump is clearly willing to make that concession for a sit-down. It’s certainly a pivot from his “fire and fury” rhetoric from last summer, but it’s entirely consistent with his bargaining strategy as president.

The second thing Trump has done has been to signal, intentionally or not, that he is willing to cut South Korea and Japan loose in any nuclear deal. Trump’s insistence on renegotiating the United States-

Korea Free Trade Agreement even as tensions with North Korea were high suggested just how little Trump cares about harmonious relations with a long-standing ally. Trump’s refusal to exempt Japan from the steel and aluminum tariffs is another example.

From Kim’s seat, a president willing to toss aside allies is a dream come true. These actions might have pushed South Korea into a more accommodating bargaining position. Trump’s attitude makes it conceivable to North Korea that the dream bargain can be struck — one that removes the United States from Northeast Asia.

None of that means Trump will actually toss U.S. allies to the curb after meeting with Kim. The rest of his administration would not be enthusiastic about this outcome. Some of Trump’s more hawkish aides are doing their damndest to say things that scotch the talks in advance. So all of this could just be a replay of previous thaws on the Korean Peninsula that led nowhere.

Still, give Trump credit: He has been willing to reverse his own position, and undercut our credible commitment to allies in the region. That has helped bring us to the present moment.

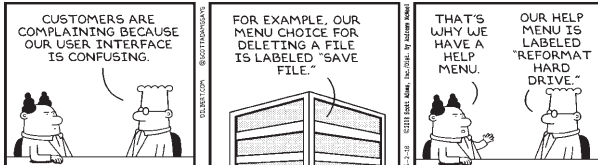
How it bodes for the future is a more disturbing question.

Daniel W. Drezner is a professor of international politics at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.

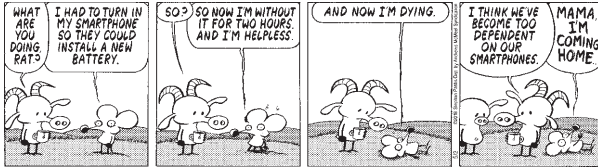
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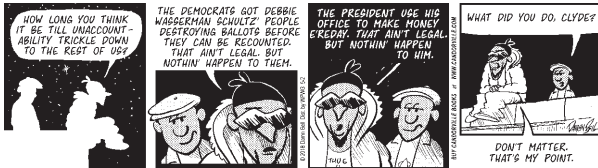
Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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ACROSS

- 1 Sit-up targets
- 4 Daring Knivel
- 8 To-do list item
- 12 Salty expanse
- 13 Swampy terrain
- 14 Buffalo's county
- 15 Skillet
- 16 Elaborate display
- 18 Tea sweetener
- 20 Family
- 21 Small plateau
- 24 Sad song
- 28 Ornate wall hanging
- 32 Went a-courting?
- 33 — standstill
- 34 Hungarian-born financier George
- 36 Droop
- 37 Portnoy's creator
- 39 Foot doctor's field
- 41 Velocity
- 43 Humpty's perch
- 44 "Way cool!"
- 46 Tripoli's land
- 50 Imbalance between two sides
- 55 Singer Orbison
- 56 Libertine
- 57 Gift tag word
- 58 Census stat
- 59 Charitable gift
- 60 Ocean motion
- 61 "— Kapital"

DOWN

- 1 Nile vipers
- 2 Boyfriend
- 3 Cracker spread
- 4 Catherine, notably
- 5 By way of
- 6 Work unit
- 7 Onion relative
- 8 Billie Jean's sport
- 9 Louvre collection
- 10 Knightly address
- 11 Lock opener
- 12 Help
- 19 Soul, to Camus
- 22 Halt
- 23 Cupid's missile
- 25 Reddish brown
- 26 Equipment
- 27 Jittery
- 28 Old salts
- 29 On
- 30 Cracker spread
- 31 Luke's teacher
- 35 "What a fool I am!"
- 38 Winged messenger
- 40 "The Greatest"
- 42 Weir
- 45 Skilled
- 47 Pitt of "Moneyball"
- 48 Meditative practice
- 49 Pro votes
- 50 Altar constellation
- 51 Fa follower
- 52 "Tasty!"
- 53 Numerical prefix
- 54 Scepter

Answer to Previous Puzzle

N	E	A	P	Y	O	G	I	N	E	T
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CRYPTOQUIP

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 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT MIGHT
 SOMEONE CALL A CLOSE, LIFELONG BUDDY
 OF A YOUNG COW? A BEST FRIEND FOR HEIFER.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals S


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Announcements 040

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Be aware of the common red flags.

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- Vehicle buyers wanting to buy sight unseen and have the vehicle shipped through an agent using paypal.
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Automotive 140

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AUTO RACING/WOMEN'S SPORTS



AJ MAST/AP

Danica Patrick waits to be interviewed after she qualified on the first day of qualifications for the Indianapolis 500 on May 22, 2010. Patrick's farewell tour began its final phase on Tuesday, when she got into an Indy car for the first time since 2011. The world's most famous female race car driver began preparation for her final drive around Indianapolis Motor Speedway and kicks off a month in which she's sure to own the headlines.

All eyes will be on Patrick in her return to IndyCar

By JENNA FRYER
Associated Press

Sebastian Bourdais was back at Indianapolis Motor Speedway on Monday. So was Helio Castroneves, who returned to his home away from home to re-acclimate to an Indy car.

But the show really begins on Tuesday when Danica Patrick's farewell tour returns to her biggest stage. The world's most famous female race car driver returns to IndyCar for the first time since 2011 to prepare for her final drive around Indianapolis Motor Speedway in the advance of the Indianapolis 500. Her preparations will help kick off IndyCar's beloved "Month of May" — and Patrick is sure to own the headlines.

"I imagine I'll probably pop up into the seat fully kitted up once before I get in, just to make sure everything is good, and go over things like, 'How the hell do I start this thing?'" Patrick said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press.

And by that, Patrick literally meant how she starts the car and begins her final drive. She's been chasing her dreams since she was a little girl in Illinois, and two decades later, she's ready to call it a career. Her farewell began with NASCAR's season-opening Daytona 500, where Patrick was collected in a crash and finished 35th.

But the "Danica Double" was always about bringing her career full circle and walking away at Indy, the place that made her a household name. Patrick led 19 laps and finished fourth as a rookie in 2005 and she was a career-best third in 2009. She's always thrived on Indy's main stage, and she doesn't anticipate that changing this year.

Patrick, who spent last week at boyfriend Aaron Rodgers' Green Bay, Wis., home "watching the snow melt," was already shifting into race mode and talked confidently about her next hurdle. Yes, it's been more than six years since she's been in an Indy car and it has had two body modifications during her absence.

She's approaching Tuesday much like she did her very first Indy test, in 2004.

"When I first drove an Indy car back in the day at Kentucky when no one was watching, now they are going to be watching," she said. "I've got a feeling that if it's comfortable, it could come back to me really quick. I have to remember the very first time I

ever drove an Indy car, having never driven one before, it went fine. So I've got to trust that everything will be fine."

Like it or not, Patrick has earned her spot on the central stage for the final month of her racing career.

With Patrick back at Indy for the May 27 race, everything she does in her GoDaddy-sponsored Chevrolet will be scrutinized. Even Monday, the first day the track opened for testing, had a buzz about Patrick's presence and she wasn't even on the track.

Instead, it was Bourdais back on the big oval for the first time since he broke his hip and pelvis when he wrecked qualifying his car for last year's 500. The injury was supposed to sideline him all year, but he was back in the IndyCar Series before the end of 2017 and already has a win and a pole on his résumé this season.

Castroneves, the three-time Indy 500 winner, also got his first laps around Indy in the 2018 configuration of the car. Because he was moved by Roger Penske to the sports car series this year, the Brazilian will only run this month at Indy and try to grab a record-tying fourth victory. Tony Kanaan, in an A.J. Foyt Racing car, was fastest on the day at 226.181 mph, and Marco Andretti wasn't too shabby at third on the speed chart.

IndyCar closed the afternoon with a brief test session of a windscreen it is developing to protect drivers' heads in the open cockpit cars. Defending series champion Josef Newgarden spent about 45 minutes behind the windscreens at the end of the day and seemed to struggle a bit with glare bouncing off the screen and vision.

Next comes Patrick's return on Tuesday, which was originally scheduled for late March but was postponed because of a cold and rainy weather. She's used to attention, she thrives under pressure, and she's ready for the cameras when she gets back into the car.

There are 35 entries for this year's race, which means two drivers won't qualify for the 500. Patrick will be in a Chevrolet fielded by Ed Carpenter Racing, a team that is traditionally strong at Indy, and hasn't thought at all about potentially missing her retirement race.

"Why would I?" she said. "I'm thinking about going to win the race."

8 women's sports leagues join forces

'Women have to support women': WNBA, USTA among those backing Shels initiative

By DOUG FEINBERG
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Women's sports leagues are banding together for the first time with a new initiative — Shels.

Eight leagues, including the WNBA, U.S. Tennis Association, Women's Pro Fastpitch League and Canadian Women's Hockey, will try to help each other increase resources, viewership and attendance.

"Each commissioner has agreed to come to one and another's events," WNBA President Lisa Borders told The Associated Press. "Women have to support women before you ask other people to support you. I'll buy a ticket to a hockey game in Canada or a fastpitch softball game."

All the league commissioners signed a pledge and filmed a public service announcement promoting the movement. Those were to start rolling out Tuesday.

"It's a social media campaign for now, but will grow," Borders added. "This is only tier one."

The initiative was the brainchild of Brenda Andress, who is the commissioner of the Canadian Women's Hockey League. She first came up with the idea last November.

"This collective sports voice has never been heard. I wanted to create some type of program or challenge to bring women together that was born out of positivity," Andress said. "So I thought of Shels. When I thought of myself, she is a grandmother with young kids. She is a commissioner. She is a hockey player. She is anything she wants to be. That's where Shels came from."

Andress reached out to Borders and USTA chief executive Stacey Allaster, who quickly jumped on board.

"Right off the bat, they were so supportive," Andress said. "We have to do it together. Let's do it, but let's do it right. It's going to be professional, top notch. It's about us as females recognizing we can bring the fans back just to hockey, but to the WNBA. Tennis needs more eyes on the TV. It's not about everyone else making the difference for us, but us making the difference for ourselves."

There has been much discussion over the years about the

wage gap between the genders in sports. Tennis is one of the few sports where the women have some parity with the men as far as earnings. All four Grand Slam events pay the two sexes equally.

"I think the secret sauce for women's tennis started with our athletes," Allaster said. "It took their advocacy and courage to stand up to the establishment much like soccer players and female hockey players have. It was Billie Jean King and the 'Original 9' saying they'd do this back in the 1970s. The athletes have the power and Shels is a great time to energize our athletes."

The Shels group need only look as far as Seattle to see a group already using this format of cross-sport support. Force 10 Sports Management owns and operates the Seattle Storm. The group also runs the Seattle Reign of the women's soccer league and the Seawolves of the rugby league. There is cross-promotion among the sports.

"Seattle is absolutely the model," Borders said. "They were doing that before Shels is born."

The city itself has also embraced female athletes such as Sue Bird, Megan Rapinoe and Breanna Stewart.

Before the launch Tuesday, members of the founding committee, league commissioners and prominent members from across the sports world gathered at the WNBA office in New York to sign the Shels pledge.

"The heroes who run, walk and play among us make up 51 percent of the global population, yet have little to no visibility in the sports world," said Dr. Jen Wen, who was the first female coach in the NFL. "Shels will give the first true platform for these real-world, real-women heroes who have been living among us. With that comes the opportunity to be much more visible and for female athletes and their supporters to join forces in a really positive way. I love that this bubbling movement is coming from the sports industry, because sports has the ability to change the world."

Andress expects other sports like soccer, gymnastics, swimming, cycling and running to join the movement.

'This collective sports voice has never been heard. I wanted to create some type of program or challenge to bring women together that was born out of positivity.'

Brenda Andress
Canadian Women's Hockey League commissioner

KENTUCKY DERBY/SPORTS BRIEFS



PHOTOS BY CHARLIE RIEDEL/AP

Kentucky Derby hopeful Justify runs during a morning workout at Churchill Downs on Tuesday in Louisville, Ky. The 144th running of the Kentucky Derby is scheduled for Saturday.

Justify installed as early favorite in 20-horse field

By BETH HARRIS
Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Justify has been made the early 3-1 favorite for the Kentucky Derby, with Europe-based Mendelsohn the second choice in a full field of 20 horses.

Trained by four-time Derby winner Bob Baffert, Justify drew the No. 7 post on Tuesday. Six horses have won from there, most recently Street Sense in 2007.

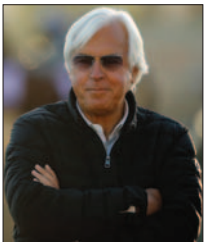
Justify, the undefeated winner of the Santa Anita Derby, is one of two horses in Saturday's 1 1/4-mile race who didn't race at age 2. The other is 6-1 third choice Magnum Moon. No horse since Apollo in 1882 has won the Derby after not racing as a 2-year-old.

"I don't buy into the Apollo Curse or whatever at all, mainly because Bob Baffert and Todd Pletcher have got the horses," four-time Derby-winning trainer D. Wayne Lukas said. "Todd's going to have his (horse) ready, and Baffert is going to have his."

Justify is 3-0 in his brief career, winning by a combined 20 lengths. Magnum Moon is 4-0, winning the Arkansas Derby and Rebel Stakes in his last two starts.

"It's one of the toughest Derbies I've ever seen," Baffert said. "All the important horses got good draws."

More history is working against



Kentucky Derby favorite Justify is trained by four-time Derby winner Bob Baffert.

Mendelsohn. A horse coming from Europe has never won America's biggest race. Trained by Irishman Aidan O'Brien, UAE Derby winner Mendelsohn is the 5-1 second choice. He drew the No. 14 post.

Pletcher has a leading four horses in the field: Magnum Moon, 8-1 Audible, 12-1 Vino Rosso and 30-1 Noble Indy. Pletcher surpassed mentor D. Wayne Lukas this year as the trainer with the most starts in Derby history with 52.

The main starting gate holds 14 horses and a six-stall auxiliary gate is attached. Horses are loaded into the gate two at a time, beginning with posts one and 11, which spend the most time wait-

ing for the start.

The co-fourth choices are 8-1 Audible and Bolt d'Oro.

Bolt d'Oro has won four of six career starts for trainer and owner Mick Ruis. The colt drew the No. 11 post, which means he will be waiting the longest for the gate to open. Firenze Fire drew the dreaded No. 1 post and also will be standing the longest.

"We're good," Ruis said. "Bolt is so well-minded that he doesn't work himself up."

Baffert's other entry, 30-1 shot Solomini, drew the No. 17 post, which has never produced a Derby winner.

Lukas, the 82-year-old Hall of Famer, has his 49th Derby starter in Bravazo. The colt is one of five 50-1 shots in the field. In that group is Lone Sailor, owned by Gayle Benson, the widow of New Orleans Saints owner Tom Benson.

Seven horses were listed at 30-1 by Churchill Downs oddsmaker Mike Battaglia: Free Drop Billy, Promises Fulfilled, Flameaway, My Boy Jack, Enticed, Solomini and Noble Indy.

The Desormeaux brothers have teamed with My Boy Jack. Kent Desormeaux, a three-time Derby winner, will ride, while Keith Desormeaux does the training.

The field is limited to the top 20 horses based on points earned in designated prep races.

Briefly

Gymnasts accuse ex-Brazil coach of sexual abuse

Associated Press

SAO PAULO — A community center fired a former coach of the Brazilian national gymnastics team Monday after a news report revealed that dozens of athletes he worked with have accused him of sexual abuse.

Reporters for the "Fantastico" news show on Globo TV spoke to 40 gymnasts and former gymnasts who said Fernando de Carvalho Lopes had abused them while they were minors, including watching them shower, touching their genitals and asking them to masturbate in front of him. The Sao Paulo state Security Department confirmed police are investigating but would not provide any more details because the case is under judicial seal.

Clube MESC, a community center with several sports programs in an industrial city outside Sao Paulo, said it fired Lopez after the report aired Sunday night. The club said that it had put Lopes on administrative duty two years ago when the first accusations against him emerged and that he had not had any contact with athletes since then. The club said that since the case is under seal, it did not know the extent of the accusations until the Sunday report.

Lopes denied the accusations in an interview with Globo, saying he never raped or molested anyone.

Steelers cut veteran safety J.J. Wilcox

PITTSBURGH — The Pittsburgh Steelers released veteran safety J.J. Wilcox on Monday just days after selecting a pair of safeties in the NFL Draft.

Wilcox played in 12 games for the Steelers in 2017 after Pittsburgh acquired him from Tampa Bay last September.

The Steelers drafted two safeties over the weekend, taking

Terrell Edmunds out of Virginia Tech in the first round and Penn State's Marcus Allen in the fifth.

In other NFL news:

■ The Minnesota Vikings resigned cornerback Terence Newman, bringing the NFL's oldest active defensive player back for a 16th season that will begin five days after he turns 40.

■ The San Francisco 49ers have exercised the fifth-year option to keep defensive end Arik Armstead under contract through 2019. The team announced the move Monday to pick up the option worth about \$9 million.

Bumgarner could begin throwing soon

SAN FRANCISCO — Hoping for clearance to begin a throwing program, San Francisco Giants ace Madison Bumgarner is headed to Arizona to meet with the same doctor who performed surgery on his left pectoris.

Bumgarner was scheduled to leave the Bay Area on Monday night for a checkup with Dr. Donald Sheridan, who inserted three pins into Bumgarner's pitching hand one day after the 2014 World Series MVP was hit by a line drive late in spring training.

If Bumgarner is cleared to start throwing, the four-time All-Star is still likely a month away from rejoining the big league club.

Trump honors Army's football team

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump honored Army's football team at the White House on Tuesday.

Trump saluted the Black Knights with the annual Commander in Chief's Trophy, recounting their victory over Navy on a snowy day in Philadelphia. He received a white Army jersey. It's the first Commander in Chief Trophy for West Point since 1996.



JOE GRONELSKI/Stars and Stripes

Army football coach Jeff Monken, left, poses with President Donald Trump and 2017 co-captains John Voigt and Ahmad Bradshaw after presenting the president with a West Point jersey during a ceremony marking the Black Knights' winning of the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy on Tuesday.

MLB



PHOTOS BY PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

The Orioles' Manny Machado walks off the field after grounding out in the ninth inning last month against the Indians. Machado is the lone player in Baltimore's lineup who isn't struggling with injuries or batting woes, hitting nine home runs and driving in 22 runs this season.

Troubled: O's hope for boost from Trumbo

FROM BACK PAGE

That would be acceptable if the Orioles were tanking, but they fully expected to compete for a playoff spot this season.

Vice president of baseball operations Dan Duquette resisted trade offers for pending free agent Manny Machado over the winter and added veterans Alex Cobb and Andrew Cashner to a starting rotation that featured the home-grown talent of Dylan Bundy and Kevin Gausman.

Unfortunately, things went awry well before opening day. Slugger Mark Trumbo (quad strain) and closer Zach Britton (Achilles tendon) began the season on the disabled list and were soon joined by All-Star second baseman Jonathan Schoop (oblique), outfielder Colby Rasmus (hip flexor) and third baseman Tim Beckham, who will be sidelined for the next six weeks after undergoing core surgery.

That opened the door for a variety of players who would otherwise be on the bench or in the minor leagues.

"There's a great opportunity here for some people, and they're trying to take advantage of it — mostly because we have a need," Showalter said.

Through the weekend, however, Santander — a Rule 5 pick — was batting .213 and Valencia was at .204. Sisco, a rookie catcher who replaced struggling starter Caleb Joseph early on, was hitting a comparatively robust .255.

But hey, they're not the only players struggling at the plate. Chris Davis has a .167 batting average, two home runs and six RBIs, just three years after signing a \$161 million contract that the Orioles are stuck with through 2022.



The Orioles' Chris Davis walks off the field after striking out Thursday against the Tampa Bay Rays in Baltimore. Davis has a .167 batting average just three years after signing a \$161 million deal.

'It's a hole that can be dug out of. You can't just wish it and hope it and think it's something that comes with the mathematics of a season.'

Manny Machado
Baltimore Orioles

"I'm sure there's the inner pressure to live up to (expectations)," Showalter said. "It's eating at him." Beckham was hitting .179 before going on the DL, Adam Jones is at .239 and Joseph is sputtering at .137.

The lone player with a hot bat has been Machado (.361, nine HRs, 22 RBIs), who might not be around past July if the Orioles can't turn things around.

"I know what Manny's done. Special player," Tampa Bay Rays manager Kevin Cash said. "But then you look at Jonathan Schoop, another special player that's not there. They've been banged up, snafaked a little bit by the injuries. But they've got guys that are very capable of getting hot, and when they do, they can hit the ball out of anywhere, put a lot of runs on the board."

The Orioles haven't abandoned hope of bouncing back. After all, Trumbo was slated to make his debut Tuesday, when the calendar flipped to May.

"I have a lot of faith in the guys in here. I have a lot of faith in myself," Davis said. "We've been in tough spots in the past and we got through it. We'll do it again."

Quite possibly, the team will get healthier. Perhaps Davis will find the groove that enabled him to hit 47 homers in 2015 and 38 in 2016. Maybe Cobb (0-3, 13.11 ERA) will begin to justify his \$57 million contract, the largest ever offered to a pitcher by the Orioles.

"You have some guys struggling and some guys not," said Cashner, who falls into the former category after going 1-4 with a 4.76 ERA through six starts. "At the end of the season, they'll be where they need to be."

The Orioles are trying to win. They want to win. Right now, it's just not happening.

"It's a hole that can be dug out of," Machado said. "You can't just wish it and hope it and think it's something that comes with the mathematics of a season. We've got to do better. We know that."

Dodgers' Seager out for season

By BOB BAUM
Associated Press

PHOENIX — The Los Angeles Dodgers' difficult April got a lot worse Monday with news that two-time All-Star shortstop and 2016 NL Rookie of the Year Corey Seager will undergo season-ending Tommy John surgery.

Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said the operation will be performed Friday in Los Angeles to repair a right ulnar collateral ligament sprain.

"It's a big blow," Roberts said. The 24-year-old infielder had been bothered by a sore elbow since the middle of last season but had tried to deal with the problem with rest and rehabilitation rather than surgery.

Seager spoke to reporters in the dugout before the Dodgers played NL West rival Arizona on Monday night. He said he felt pain and numbness after a couple of throws in the recently completed series at San Francisco.

"I had a few bad throws over the weekend and went and got an MRI this morning and it was necessary to have surgery," he said.

There was no doubt surgery was needed, Seager said, calling it "cut and dried."

He said he was at peace with the decision after dealing with the arm problem for so long.

"You always think if the day would come," Seager said. "You always hope it doesn't come. I've kind of accepted it now. It's just nice to know it's finished. It's done with. No more decisions to be made."

Seager said he did not regret deciding against surgery in the offseason, saying there were other options then and the arm

'I've kind of accepted it now. It's just nice to know it's finished. It's done with. No more decisions to be made.'

Corey Seager
Dodgers shortstop

wasn't as bad.

"It would have been a forced thing," he said. "It wasn't the right step to just go ahead and do it. It was still in that kind of middle ground where the first step should have been rehab and see if you could take some time off and it would be all right."

The new MRI, he said, showed the injury had gotten "much, much worse."

Seager was hitting .267 with two homers and 13 RBIs.

Roberts said Chris Taylor would move from the outfield to become the everyday shortstop.

The defending NL champion Dodgers already were without third baseman Justin Turner, sidelined by a broken left wrist. Right fielder Yasiel Puig went on the 10-day disabled list Sunday with a bruised left hip.

Seager was placed on the 10-day DL and infielder-outfielder Breyvic Valera was called up from Triple-A Oklahoma City.

The Dodgers entered their four-game series at Arizona with a 12-15 record, seven games behind the NL West-leading Diamondbacks.



ROSS D. FRANKLIN/AP

Injured Los Angeles Dodger Corey Seager stands in the dugout prior to Monday's game against the Arizona Diamondbacks in Phoenix. Seager will undergo season-ending Tommy John surgery on Friday.

MLB

Morton, Astros end Yankees' streak at 9

By KRISTIE RIEKEN
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Charlie Morton and the Houston Astros ended the New York Yankees' winning streak Monday night — and they think they sent a little message in the process.

Morton pitched two-hit ball into the eighth inning and struck out 10 as the defending World Series champions snapped New York's nine-game run with a 2-1 victory.

"We want to prove a point. We want to make a statement that we're the team to beat and you have to come past us first," said closer Ken Giles, who struck out the side in the ninth for his third save.

Carlos Correa had two hits and an RBI for Houston in the first meeting between the teams since Game 7 of last year's AL Championship Series, when Morton allowed two hits over five innings for the win in a 4-0 victory that sent the Astros to the World Series.

After this one, New York outfielder Brett Gardner was not at all interested in talking about the 2017 ALCS.

"I've been asked about it about eight times already in the last two days and I know that's what you guys want to write about, but last year's over and done with," he said. "Obviously, they beat us last year, and this year is a new year. They've got a really good team and we do, too, but tonight we just came up a little short."

Houston has won seven straight at home against the Yankees (18-10) including the postseason, holding them to no more than one run in each of their last six games here.

The Astros (20-10) tied the best 30-game start in franchise history, also accomplished last year and in 1973.

"We feel like we have the better team," Correa said. "We've just got to show it every single day when we take the field. At the end of the day, we're the defending champions. Everybody is trying to knock us down. Everybody is trying to beat us, so we've got to go out there and try to be consistent every day."

Morton (4-0) had allowed just one hit when Gleyber Torres chased him with a two-out double in the eighth. Brad Peacock took over and walked pinch-hitter Aaron Judge, who didn't start for the first time this season, and Torres stole third base.

Chris Devenski replaced Peacock and was greeted with an RBI single by Gardner that cut the lead to 2-1. Devenski then fanned AL player of the week Didi Gregorius on three pitches to end the inning.

Sonny Gray (1-2) yielded four hits and two runs while walking three in six innings to snap a streak of three straight starts in which he didn't get out of the fifth inning.

"I thought it was a step in the right direction for me, personally, but unfortunately Morton was a little bit better — maybe a lot better," Gray said.



MICHAEL WYKE/AP

Astros starting pitcher Charlie Morton delivers against the New York Yankees during the first inning Monday in Houston. Morton pitched two-hit ball into the eighth inning and struck out 10 as Houston won the opener of a three-game series, 2-1.

Roundup

Bogaerts' grand slam helps Red Sox finish historic April

Associated Press

BOSTON — The Boston Red Sox slammed their way through their most wins in April ever.

Xander Bogaerts hit a grand slam over the Green Monster and Boston finished April by beating the Kansas City Royals 10-6 on Monday night.

Mitch Moreland hit a solo homer and had three hits along with Bogaerts for the Red Sox, who posted their 19th victory in April. They had reached 18 times, the last coming in their World Series-winning 2013 season.

It was Boston's sixth slam of the season — all coming in April — and tied them with 1996 Montreal Expos for most ever in the majors by May 1. The Red Sox didn't even hit one last season.

"I didn't hit a grand slam in my career, it's not because of me," Red Sox manager Alex Cora said, breaking into a smile.

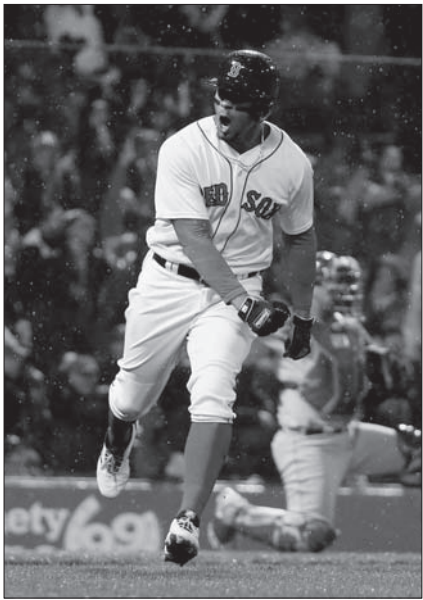
Bogaerts had a simple answer.

"Especially with the bases loaded, we're getting some good swings," he said. "I think we've been really selective and looking for some good pitches to hit."

Despite playing, at times, in lousy conditions at home — like Monday night when it was chilly with temperatures in the mid-40s and a light rain falling most of the game — the Red Sox offense continues to hit homers unlike the team that was last in the AL in 2017.

"It's not the best weather to play in," Bogaerts said. "But, it's playable."

What Merrifield had three hits and two RBIs for the Royals, who were coming off their first consecutive wins this season.



MICHAEL DWYER/AP

The Red Sox's Xander Bogaerts reacts after hitting a grand slam during the third inning of Monday's game against the Kansas City Royals in Boston. The Red Sox won 10-6.

Diamondbacks 8, Dodgers 5: A.J. Pollock hit three home runs and host Arizona topped Los Angeles in the opener of a four-game series.

Giants 6, Padres 5: Pinch-hitter Nick Hundley lined a two-run single off San Diego closer Brad Hand (1-3) with two outs in the ninth inning to give host San Francisco a comeback victory.

Cubs 3, Rockies 2: Jon Lester pitched effectively into the sixth inning, continuing an impressive stretch for Chicago's rotation and helping his team beat visiting Colorado for its season-high fifth straight victory.

Brewers 6, Reds 5: Homers by Manny Pina and Lorenzo Cain ended Milwaukee's historically bad slump, and Domingo Santana doubled home the go-ahead runs in the seventh inning for a victory over host Cincinnati.

Indians 7, Rangers 5: Jose Ramirez's RBI double broke an eighth-inning tie and host Cleveland rallied for a win over Texas.

Nationals 3, Pirates 2: Tanner Roark (2-2) pitched seven effective innings and drove in his first run since 2016, and host Washington beat Pittsburgh.

Blue Jays 7, Twins 5: Justin Smoak and Russell Martin homered, Yangervis Solarte had three hits and visiting Toronto edged Minnesota.

Marlins 8, Phillies 4: Brian Anderson homered, drove in four runs and made a diving catch in right field with the bases loaded to preserve a lead, helping host Miami beat Jake Arrieta (3-1) and Philadelphia.

Rays 3, Tigers 2: C.J. Cron and Brad Miller each homered in the ninth inning and visiting Tampa Bay held on for a victory over Detroit.

NHL PLAYOFFS

Karlsson's OT goals lifts Knights

Vegas returns favor, grabs 2-1 series lead

By JOSH DUBOW
Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif. — William Karlsson and the expansion Vegas Golden Knights proved they can handle some adversity just as well as they can thrive as front-runners like they did most of their inaugural season.

The Golden Knights bounced back after allowing a late tying goal in regulation when Karlsson scored 8:17 into overtime to lead Vegas to a 4-3 victory over the San Jose Sharks on Monday night and a 2-1 series lead.

"I think it's good for the morale," Karlsson said. "We showed great attitude. Again, they came back. It was tough, too, but we gave someone a chance to be an overtime hero."

Karlsson was that hero — just as he has been so much this season. He scored 43 goals in the regular season and has added three more this series, but none was bigger than the wrist shot in transition that beat Martin Jones high to the stick side, sending the Golden Knights into a wild celebration around the player known as Wild Bill.

It was an impressive bounce back from their first loss of the playoffs in double overtime at home in Game 2 and wouldn't have been possible without Marc-Andre Fleury, who made 39 saves to hold off an early push by the Sharks and then rebuffed Logan Couture with a glove save in overtime.

The Sharks rallied to tie the game and force a second straight overtime with two goals in the third period. Evander Kane scored just seconds after the end of a power play midway through the third to set the stage for Tomas Hertl.

Hertl drove to the net with a strong power move. With the Sharks swarming in front of Fleury, Hertl whacked at a loose puck and knocked it in for the equalizer with 1:57 to go, sending the towel-waving crowd into a frenzy.

Colin Miller, Jonathan Marchessault and Reilly Smith scored in a span of less than five minutes in the second period to put the Golden Knights in control, but they couldn't hold onto the lead.

Timothy Meier opened the scoring with a power-play goal for the Sharks.



Vegas Golden Knights players celebrate after center William Karlsson scored the winning goal against the Sharks during the second overtime of Game 3 of their second-round playoff series Monday in San Jose, Calif. The Golden Knights won 4-3 to take a 2-1 series lead.

Scoreboard

Conference semifinals

(Best-of-seven; x-if necessary)
EASTERN CONFERENCE
Pittsburgh 1, Washington 1
Pittsburgh 3, Washington 2
Washington 4, Pittsburgh 1
Tuesday: at Pittsburgh
Thursday: at Pittsburgh
1 a.m. Friday CET; 8 a.m. Friday JKT
Saturday: at Washington
x-Monday, May 7: at Pittsburgh
x-Wednesday, May 9: at Washington
Boston 1, Tampa Bay 1
Boston 6, Tampa Bay 2
Monday: Tampa Bay 4, Boston 2
Wednesday: at Boston AFN-Sports2, 1 a.m. Thursday CET; 8 a.m. Thursday, JKT
Friday: at Boston AFN-Sports2, 1 a.m. Saturday CET; 8 a.m. Saturday JKT
Sunday, May 6: at Tampa Bay
x-Tuesday, May 8: at Boston JKT
x-Thursday, May 10: at Tampa Bay
WESTERN CONFERENCE
Winnipeg 1, Nashville 1
Winnipeg 4, Nashville 1
Nashville 5, Winnipeg 4, 2OT
Tuesday: at Winnipeg
Thursday: at Winnipeg
Saturday: at Nashville
x-Monday, May 7: at Winnipeg
x-Thursday, May 10: at Nashville
Vegas 2, San Jose 1
Vegas 7, San Jose 0
San Jose 4, Vegas 3, 2OT
Monday: Vegas 4, San Jose 3, OT
Wednesday: at San Jose AFN-Sports2, 4 a.m. Thursday, CET; 11 a.m. Thursday, JKT
Friday: at Boston AFN-Sports2, 4 a.m. Saturday CET; 11 a.m. Saturday JKT
x-Sunday, May 6: at San Jose
x-Tuesday, May 8: at Vegas

Monday

Lightning 4, Bruins 2

Boston	1	0	1-2
Tampa Bay	1	1	2-4
First Period —1. Tampa Bay, Gourde 2 (Sergachev, Point), 11:47 (pp), 2. Boston, McAvoy 1 (Bergeron, Marchand), 18:30.			
Second Period —3. Tampa Bay, Johnson 3 (Point, Palat), 10:14.			
Third Period —4. Tampa Bay, Palat 2 (Point), 14:08. 5. Boston, Krug 3 (Pasternak, Marchand), 15:58. 6. Tampa Bay, Point 2 (Hodman), 18:34.			
Shots on Goal —Boston 8-5-7—20. Tampa Bay 10-13-31.			
Power-play opportunities —Boston 0 of 3; Tampa Bay 1 of 4.			
Goalies —Boston, Rask 5-4 (30 shots; 27 saves). Tampa Bay, Vasilevskiy 5-2 (20-18).			
A=19,092 (19,092), T=236.			

Golden Knights 4, Sharks 3 (OT)

Vegas	0	3	0	1-4
San Jose	0	1	2	0-3
Second Period —1. San Jose, Meier 2 (Boedker, Tierney), 6:59 (pp), 2. Vegas, Miller 2 (Neal, Perron), 9:40 (pp), 3. Vegas, Marchessault 2 (Tuch, Smith), 13:09 (pp), 4. Vegas, Smith 1 (Marchessault, Wklarison), 14:21.				
Third Period —5. San Jose, Kane 4 (Burns, DeMelo), 18:34. 6. San Jose, Hertl 4 (Labanc, Braun), 18:03.				
Overtime —7. Vegas, Wklarison 4 (Marchessault, Neal), 8:17.				
Shots on Goal —Vegas 10-8-12-3—33. San Jose 16-16-7-3—42.				
Power-play opportunities —Vegas 2 of 6; San Jose 1 of 4.				
Goalies —Vegas, Fleury 6-1 (42 shots; 39 saves). San Jose, Jones 5-2 (33-29).				
A=17,502 (17,502), T=308.				



CHRIS O'MEARA/AP

Lightning defenseman Dan Girardi, front, knocks down Boston Bruins left wing Brad Marchand during the first period of Game 2 of their second-round playoff series Monday in Tampa, Fla.

Bolts bounce back to beat Bruins

By FRED GODDALL
Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — The Tampa Bay Lightning have been just as resilient in the Stanley Cup playoffs as they've been all season.

Challenged by coach Jon Cooper to compete harder and raise their level of play after dropping the opener of their second-round series against the Boston Bruins, the top seed in the Eastern Conference responded with a 4-2 victory in Game 2 of the best-of-seven matchup Monday night.

Brayden Point had an empty-net goal and three assists. He also teamed with Tyler Johnson and Ondrej Palat to slow down Boston's high-scoring line of Patrick Bergeron, David Pastrnak and Brad Marchand.

Game 3 is Wednesday night in Boston. "It feels good. I thought we played well," Point said after posting just the third four-point game in Tampa Bay's history. "We had a tough night in Game 1. I thought we

came back tonight knowing we'd end up better."

Point assisted on Tampa Bay's first three goals before sealing the win with his empty-netter with 25.2 seconds left.

Yanni Gourde had a first-period goal and Johnson and Palat also scored for the Lightning, who rebounded from a 6-2 loss in Game 1.

"We needed to have a bounce back, we needed to have an answer, and I thought we did that," Johnson said. "I thought we competed really hard. I thought we played well and we got rewarded with some chances and some opportunities."

Bergeron, Pastrnak and Marchand combined for three goals and 11 points in the opener, with most of the damage coming while Point's line was trying to contain them. They had four more points in Game 2, but were unable to take over the game.

Charlie McAvoy scored for the Bruins late in the first period. Torey Krug's late goal trimmed Tampa Bay's lead to 3-2 with just over four minutes remaining.

Tampa Bay's Andrei Vasilevskiy stopped 18 shots. Tuukka Rask finished with 27 saves for Boston.

"They lost 6-2 at home and didn't feel good about their game. So, you've got to expect they're going to come out and play hard," Boston coach Bruce Cassidy said. "I expect it in Game 3 going forward."

The Lightning had nearly twice as many scoring opportunities as the Bruins in the series opener and controlled play early Monday night, getting off the first 10 shots of the game and taking a 1-0 lead on Gourde's power-play goal at 11:47 of the first period.

With the exception of falling to taking advantage of a long 5-on-3 power play, the Bruins made the most of limited chances, with the Bergeron line leading the way.

McAvoy's goal, with Bergeron and Marchand assisting, made it 1-1. Pastrnak and Marchand set up Krug's goal to keep the Bruins close.

The Bergeron line has 12 goals and 41 points in Boston's five playoff wins.

NBA PLAYOFFS

Rozier, Tatum lead Celtics past 76ers

BY JIMMY GOLEN
Associated Press

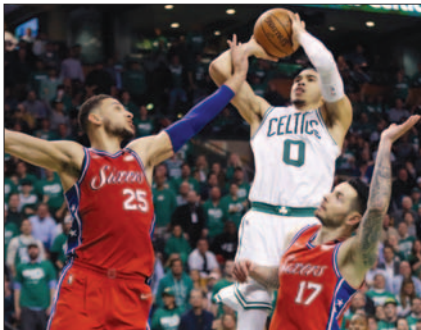
BOSTON — Boston's rising stars stalled The Process and led the Celtics to victory in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference semifinals.

Substitute point guard Terry Rozier scored 29 and first-year Celtics forward Jayson Tatum had a career-high 28 points to outplay redshirt rookie Ben Simmons on Monday night and lead Boston to a 117-101 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers.

With much of the attention focused on 76ers youngsters Simmons and Joel Embiid, Boston's youth movement of Tatum and Rozier led the way. Two days after scoring a career playoff-high 26 points in Game 7 against Milwaukee, Rozier topped it, while also adding eight rebounds and six assists.

"It's been a dream come true. I want to keep going," said Rozier, who was wearing a Drew Bledsoe Patriots jersey to milk one more chuckle out of his pseudo-fueled with vanquished Bucks guard Eric Bledsoe. "I'm just a guy just living in the moment."

Embiid scored 31 points with



ELISE AMENDOLA/AP

Celtics forward Jayson Tatum shoots against 76ers Ben Simmons, left, and JJ Redick in the second half of Game 1 of their second-round playoff series on Monday. Tatum scored 28 points in the Celtics' 117-101 victory.

13 rebounds for Philadelphia, which lost for just the second time in 22 games. Simmons, the likely rookie of the year, scored 18 with seven rebounds and six assists.

But with six days of rest since eliminating Miami, the 76ers missed 15 of their first 20 shots and hit five of 26 from three-point range to lose for just the second

time since March 13.

"We're NBA players and we have to be ready," Embiid said. "We weren't ready tonight."

Al Horford had 26 points and seven rebounds for Boston, which will host Game 2 on Thursday night. The Celtics are hoping to have guard Jaylen Brown back from a hamstring injury he sustained in the clincher against the Bucks, leaving him sidelined along with Kyrie Irving and Gordon Hayward.

Playing in place of Irving, Rozier picked up where he left off in the first round by scoring 10 points with six assists in the first quarter on Monday night. He was 7-for-9 from three-point "Range" overall, combining with Tatum to overshadow the lottery picks accumulated by Philadelphia during The Process.

The first overall pick in the 2016 draft who sat out all of last year with an injury, Simmons was heckled by the Boston crowd with chants of "Not a rookie!" In the fourth quarter, as Tatum stepped to the free-throw line to protect a double-digit lead, the chant turned to "He's a rookie!"

"I love when people talk trash," Embiid said. "Keep bringing it,

and we'll see how it goes."

Tatum was Boston's first pick last year — third overall — after swapping the No. 1 pick to the Sixers and grabbing a 2018 first-round pick. Philadelphia picked Markelle Fultz; he did not play on Monday night.

"It's been great to see Jayson and Terry and just our guys play like that," Horford said. "I think that Jayson's starting to figure it out ... And it's great to see for our team."

It was 33-all with just over seven minutes left in the half when the Celtics ran off 10 points in a row. Horford had four of the five baskets and assisted on the other. Boston led 87-70 in the final minute of the third quarter when Philadelphia scored nine straight points to make it a nine-point game.

After Simmons made a layup to make it 97-88, Horford hit a three-point shot to make it 97-91. Embiid left and it was never within single digits again.

The Celtics' second-leading scorer in the first round with 17.9 points per game, Brown was ruled out about a half-hour before tipoff following a conversation with doctors, trainers and Horford.

Scoreboard

Conference semifinals

(Best-of-seven; x if necessary)

Eastern Conference

Toronto vs. Cleveland

Tuesday at Toronto
Thursday at Toronto **AFN-Sports, Mid-**
night Thursday CET; 7 a.m. Friday JKT

Saturday at Cleveland
Monday, May 7 at Cleveland
x-Wednesday, May 9 at Toronto
x-Friday, May 11 at Cleveland
x-Sunday, May 13 at Toronto

Boston 1, Philadelphia 0
Monday, Boston 117, Philadelphia 101
Thursday at Boston **AFN-Sports, 2:30**
a.m. Thursday CET; 9:30 a.m. Thursday
JKT

Saturday at Philadelphia
Monday, May 14 at Philadelphia
x-Wednesday, May 16 at Boston
x-Friday, May 18 at Philadelphia
x-Sunday, May 20 at Boston

Western Conference

Golden State 1, New Orleans 0
Golden State 123, New Orleans 101
Tuesday at Golden State

Friday at New Orleans **AFN-Sports, 2**
a.m. Saturday CET; 9 a.m. Saturday JKT
Sunday at New Orleans

x-Tuesday, May 8 at Golden State
x-Thursday, May 10 at New Orleans
x-Sunday, May 13 at Golden State

Houston 1, Utah 0
Houston 116, Utah 96
Friday at Houston **AFN-Sports, 2**
a.m. Thursday CET; 9 a.m. Thursday JKT

Sunday at Utah
x-Tuesday, May 8 at Houston
x-Thursday, May 10 at Utah
x-Sunday, May 13 at Houston

Monday

Celtics 117, 76ers 101

PHILADELPHIA — Covington 0-6 3-3 3
Simmons 6-11 6-11 18, Redick 7-13 4-5 20,
Horford 2-9 2-4 6, Johnson 0-0 0-0 0, Hol-
mes 0-0 0-0 0, Baynes 0-0 0-0 0, McColl-
um 1-1 0-0 0, Bellinelli 3-9 4-4 11, Ander-
son 0-0 0-0 0, Rozier 7-12 1-1 9, Tatum 1-1 1-1 9,
Nader 0-0 0-0 0, Ojeleye 1-0 0-0 0, Yabusele 0-1 0-0 0,
Morris 0-0 0-0 0, Larkins 0-0 0-0 0, 22
41:55 18-19 17.

22 23 30 26-101
Boston 25 31 30 31-117

Three-point Goals-Philadelphia: 5-26
Celtics: 8-22, Redick 2-7, Bellinelli 1-2,
Anderson 0-1, Iyavosa 0-3, Covington
Morris 0-0, Baynes 0-0, Rozier 7-9,
Baynes 2-3, Horford 2-3, Smart 2-8, Larkin
1-1, Ojeleye 1-2, Morris 1-4, Tatum 1-5.
Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Phila-
delphia 45 (Embiid 13), Boston 36 (Rozier 8),
Celtics 22 (Simmons 6).
25 (Smart 9). Total Fouls—Phila-
delphia 19, Boston 21. A—18,624 (16,624).

BY IAN HARRISON
Associated Press

TORONTO — The Toronto Raptors seem to have everything lined up in their favor heading into their postseason matchup against LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers.

They're rested. The Raptors feel they are ready. They have home-court advantage.

But they've been confident before heading into a playoff showdown with James and have come up short — twice.

"Gotta go through the best to get to that trophy," All-Star guard DeMar DeRozan said. "Every step of the way we're going to come across somebody."

The Raptors opened their second-round playoff series at home against James and the Cavs on Tuesday night. Cleveland has eliminated Toronto in two straight postseasons, including the 2016 conference finals and a second-round sweep last year.

This time, however, Toronto is the top-seeded team in the East after a team-record 59-win season. The Raptors have been off since a Game 6 victory over Washington last Friday night finished their first-round series, while James and the Cavs were pushed to the limit in grinding out a Game 7 win over Indiana on Sunday.

That's a stark contrast to 2016, when Cleveland had eight days of rest before facing a Toronto team that had played consecutive seven-game series. Or last year, when the Cavs got a week off while waiting for Toronto to complete a six-game victory over Milwaukee in the opening round.

"They're coming off a series where they were banging and bumping for seven games," Raptors guard Kyle Lowry said. "I think our energy has been great. I think the days off will definitely have helped us a little bit."

James, meanwhile, has shouldered a heavy load for the Cavs, scoring 40 or more three times in the first round. He played 43 minutes in Game 7, and was briefly forced off the court in the second half because of leg cramps.



ALIX BRANDON/AP

Raptors guard Kyle Lowry celebrates late in Game 6 of Toronto's series against the Washington Wizards. The Raptors have been off since Friday and started their second-round series against Cleveland on Tuesday.

Nevertheless, Raptors coach Dwane Casey expects James to be fully fresh once tip-off time arrives Tuesday.

"I don't believe he's tired," Casey said. "He's on a mission. I'm not saying he's a lying man, but I don't think he's tired."

These Cavs don't have All-Star guard Kyrie Irving anymore, either, while Toronto has flourished with a new emphasis on ball movement and three-point shooting.

"We have a great opportunity ahead of us to show how good of a team we've been," Lowry said. "We're ready."

DeRozan agreed, saying there's "no question" the Raptors are better equipped to face Cleveland than in years past.

"I feel it," DeRozan said. "We all have that confidence in ourselves."

Some other things to watch in the series between the Cavaliers and the Raptors:

Bench mob: Lowry and DeRozan started resting before their first-round series with the Wizards was even over. Lowry played 31 minutes in the clincher, and DeRozan 33, as Toronto's deep bench took over in the fourth quarter. The reserve unit was bolstered by the return of guard Fred VanVleet, who had missed all but three minutes of the first five games because of a sore right shoulder. Pascal Siakam led Toronto's bench with 11 points in Game 6 as the Raptors outscored Washington 29-14 in the fourth.

That's the type of intensity that we need from every quarter, every time we step on the floor," Siakam said. "That's what we want, just being able to wear down our opponent and playing physical."

Home sweet home: The Raptors matched Houston with an NBA-leading 34-7 home record during the regular season and won all three home games against Washington, that can first round. Toronto's two wins against Cleveland in the 2016 Eastern Conference finals came north of the border, and its only win in three meetings with the Cavs this season happened at home, a 133-99 win on Jan. 11.

"They're a very tough team that plays well at home," Cavaliers forward Kevin Love said. "They're another team, like Indiana, that can play a number of different ways. They have bigs that are somewhat unorthodox and can play inside or outside, pick and pop. They have a lot of guards, especially those two guys out front in Lowry and DeRozan, that are going to be very tough to stop."

George Brown spasms sidelined Cavs guard George Hill for three games against Indiana, but he returned in Game 7 and sparked Cleveland. Hill attacked the rim and finished with 11 points — nine on free throws — and had six rebounds and three assists while playing the final 19 minutes. He gives the Cavs not only another ball handler to take pressure off James, but a dependable veteran who has been through playoff battles with San Antonio and Indiana.

SPORTS



Process stalled

Celtics youngsters outplay Sixers' rising stars in Game 1 » **Page 31**

MLB

Troubled times

Showalter striving for turnaround for floundering, last-place Orioles

By DAVID GINSBURG
Associated Press

BALTIMORE

The last time the Baltimore Orioles began a season this poorly, Buck Showalter was brought in to restore order to the floundering franchise.

Now, Showalter finds himself in a similar mess.

Back in 2010, the Orioles stumbled to a 1-11 start and were 5-18 at the end of April. They fired manager Dave Trembley in June and continued to slide under interim manager Juan Samuel before Showalter came aboard and guided Baltimore to 34 wins in its final 57 games.

Showalter has since taken the Orioles to the postseason on three occasions.

This year, however, he's had to deal with a team plagued by injuries, lackluster hitting and inconsistent pitching.

With guys like Anthony Santander, Danny Valencia, Chance Sisco and Craig Gentry getting significant playing time, it's no wonder Baltimore (8-20) has a minus-54 run differential and is deep in last place in the AL East.

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Orioles manager Buck Showalter walks to the dugout after a pitching change on Sunday.

GAIL BURTON/AP



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

From left to right, the Orioles' Adam Jones, Pedro Alvarez, Manny Machado and Jonathan Schoop watch a game last month against the Indians. Baltimore was projected as a contender, but has stumbled to an 8-20 start.

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